

# THE BRASSES OF MIDDLESEX

## Part 19 : ICKENHAM

H. K. Cameron M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.

### ICKENHAM

1. *William Say, ob. 20th April 1582, and wife Isabell, with inscription, scroll, 7 sons and 9 daughters, four shields (one missing), now mural on S. wall of chancel.*

This brass is No. II in Mill Stephenson's List.

The two figures of William Say and his wife, 21 and 20 inches high respectively, are shown standing and facing slightly towards one another, the man on the dexter side. He is in civilian dress, being in a long outer gown reaching almost to the ground so that only the front of the feet are visible. The gown has an opening for the arms above the elbow and has long false sleeves hanging down; it is fur-lined or at least fur-edged. The doublet is tied in at the waist with a bow and the sleeves end with ruffs at the wrists. A ruff is worn around the neck. A noticeably elegant feature is the portrayal of the hair, neatly parted and waved, with a well-trimmed moustache and full beard. The lady's dress is drawn in at the waist by a sash with a bow in front similar to that of her husband. The material of the dress is without pattern; the sleeves are puffed with ridges at the shoulders; there are ruffs around the neck and wrists. Her bonnet falls as a veil over her shoulders.

Spaced one inch below the two figures is a rectangular plate 22½in. wide and 7in. high on which is the following inscription in eight lines of blackletter:

Here under lyeth buried the bodye of William Say gent whilest he  
lyved Register to the Queenes Maiestie in causes ecclesiasticall and  
Procto<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> courte of y<sup>e</sup> Arches at Londō where after he had con=  
tynewed lvi yeares & in ye meane space had seen of his onne lawfull  
children by Isabell his wife xvi viz vii soñes & ix daughters he depted  
from this mortall lyfe to god y<sup>e</sup> xx<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill in y<sup>e</sup> yeare of Christs  
most holy incarnation 1582 and in y<sup>e</sup> lxxvii<sup>th</sup> yeare of his age  
expectinge y<sup>e</sup> ioyfull resurrection in Christ Jhesus our lord.

Above the two figures and lying horizontally between them is a scroll on which, in blackletter, is engraved:

Credo videre bona domini in terra viventiu.

Below the inscription are two plates with the children: seven sons underneath the father and nine daughters below the mother. The sons are dressed much like the father, but without evidence of fur on their gowns; their faces are beardless. The daughters are like their mother, but without head veil or bow to their waist.

There were four shields at the corners of the stone, all with the same arms, being like the first shield described under no. 2 with the quartering of Say and Colebrook. The lower sinister shield was lost between 1891 (a rubbing of this date shows it present) and 1926 when Mill Stephenson reported it missing. In a recent unhappy restoration this brass has been reset in a new piece of stone. Instead of cutting two symmetrical indents

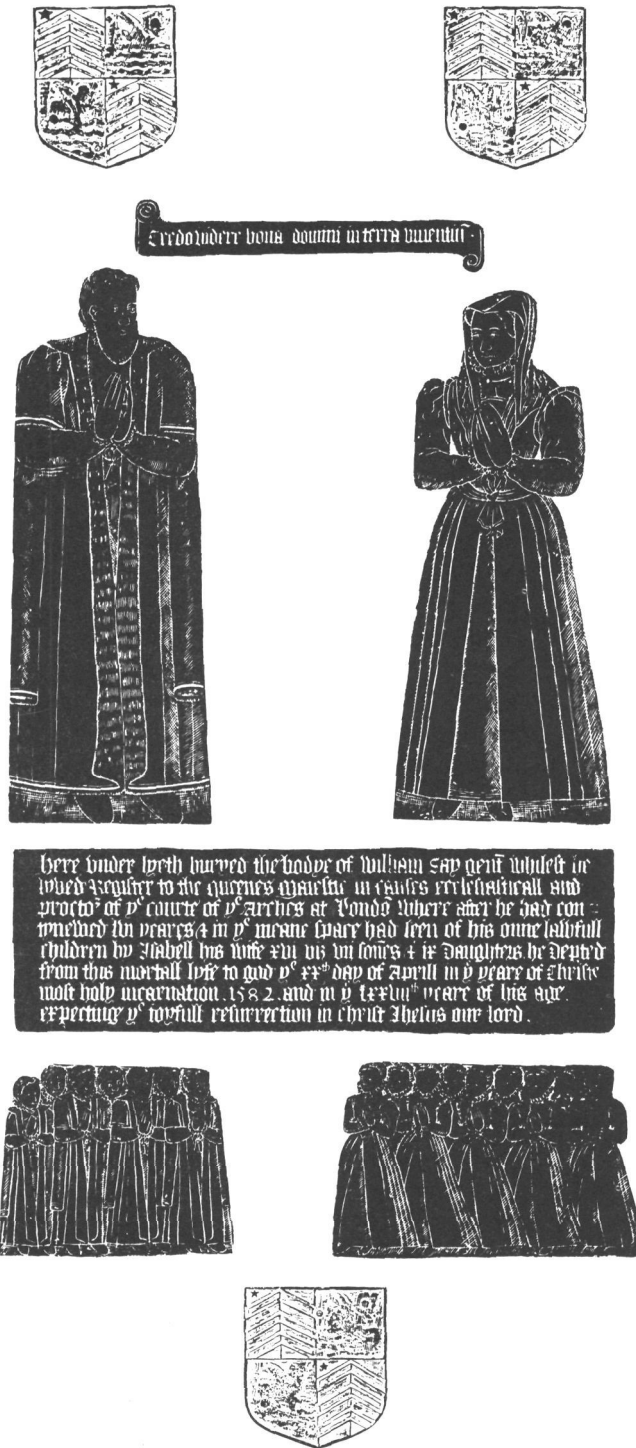


Fig. 1 William Say, ob. 1582, and wife Isabell

for the bottom shields and showing one of them as missing, the one remaining shield has been placed centrally at the bottom!

2. *Robert Say, ob. 14th November, 1584, in civilian dress with two shields, inscription lost; relaid on the east wall of the north aisle.*

This brass is No. I in Mill Stephenson's List.

This figure is of the same height and almost identical in costume and engraving with the male figure on the previous brass. The beard is a trifle shorter and bushier, but the same neat and tidy hair style is apparent. Like William Say he is shown turning slightly to his left, though we have no evidence that there was ever a second figure. The original stone lay, until recently, on the floor in front of the wall on which the brass has been fixed, but alas it has now been removed and the floor tiled over. Above the figure are two shields on which much of the blazoning is now so worn that it would be difficult to decipher were it not for earlier rubbings and notes left by Mill Stephenson, now in the library of the Society of Antiquaries.

The dexter shield is charged *quarterly 1 & 4 per pale azure and gules, 3 chevrons counterchanged of the field and fimbriated argent, in dexter chief a mullet for difference; 2 & 3, sable a flying fish argent rising out of the sea barry wavy argent and azure*. The first of these is undoubtedly of the Say family, though there are many variations described in different sources and for different branches of the family. Thus the Sawbridgeworth (Saysbury) branch described by Clutterbuck<sup>1</sup> has the fimbriation *or* and it is shown thus on the coloured illustration of the brass to Sir John Say (ob. 1478) and his wife Elizabeth (Cheyne) at Broxbourne in Wallers' 'Series of Monumental Brasses'<sup>2</sup>.

The quartering with the flying fish was identified by Mill Stephenson from a tricking in MS. 385, page 149, in the library of the Society of Antiquaries. This is of a shield said to be Lambton impaling Colebrook and the second of these is the same flying fish rising out of a barry and wavy sea. This coat is not to be identified under Colebrook in Burke, nor is it found in Papworth. The flying fish occupies but two pages in Moule's Heraldry of Fish; he reminds us that it appears on the arms of Dr Henry Robinson, Bishop of Carlisle, but neither Say nor Colebrook are mentioned.

The sinister shield on this brass shows the same quarterings in the dexter half, impaling *1 & 4, argent a chevron gules between three popinjays vert, beaks and legs gules a bordure azure bezanty*, for White of South Warnborough, co. Hants., *2 & 3, gules, on a chevron between three shacklebolts argent a bordure engrailed or pellety*, for Fenrother. This description is also taken from a Mill Stephenson rubbing of the shield. The White quartering agrees with Burke, where however Fenrother is given the same tinctures, but with three ducks (swans?) azure on the chevron. The lead used for argent on the brass itself is much worn, but it is clear there are three objects of lead on the shield as well as the chevron, disposed as in the Mill Stephenson description, and these objects are in outline like shacklebolts. Stephenson suggested that this brass was possibly to Robert Say who, according to the evidence of the Herald's Visitation of Middlesex<sup>3</sup> married Patience, daughter of Robert White of Christchurch, co. Southampton. The Sussex Visitation<sup>4</sup> shows Etheldreda, daughter of Robert Fenrother, marrying one Henry White. The conflicting evidence of the London and Middlesex Visitations and the absence of the inscription or any record of what was on it has made positive identification of the person

*Brasses of Middlesex. Part 19: Ickenham*



Fig. 2 Robert Say, ob. 1584

commemorated difficult; the conclusions now reached are discussed after a description of the third brass of this series.

3. *Edmond Shorditche, in armour, ob. 1584, and wife Ellen, daughter of William Say, with two sons and one daughter, inscription and 4 shields, mural on N. wall of chancel.*

The figure of Edmond Shorditche is shown in full face view and in armour. The head is uncovered, but lies on a helm. The face shows him wearing a moustache and bifurcated beard. The lower arms and hands are unarmed and he wears ruffs at the wrists. The knee pieces are crudely decorated with a flower-like pattern and the legs are thick and coarsely drawn. A sword on his left side is held by a narrow and undecorated belt. This figure is also 21 inches high. The wife, on the sinister side and one inch shorter, is turned slightly towards her husband and is, in appearance, almost identical with her mother. There can be little doubt that all five figures on these three brasses were engraved by one hand at one time, perhaps as a multiple commission. The engraver was more familiar with and better able to represent civilian dress than armour.

Below the main figures of this third brass is the inscription in eight lines of blackletter, on a rectangular plate 21in. wide and 7in. high. This reads:

Beholde and see the monument of him, w<sup>ch</sup> late was knowen  
both lord & patrone of this soile wherin is dayely sowen  
the seed of god<sup>s</sup> most holye woord, which feedith evermore  
the soules of Just and godlye men, by whom y<sup>e</sup> lord set<sup>s</sup> store  
of Edmonde Shorditche late Esquire, the bodye heare dooth lye  
amonge his faithfull Anncesters of longe Antiquitie  
who of this Manner lord<sup>s</sup> have bin, & patrones of the same  
which longe tyme lived & long agoe, wear buried w<sup>th</sup> great fame

Below this inscription are, on the dexter side, two sons in civilian costume, attired like their young uncles on the brass of William Say, but rather larger in size and kneeling. On the other side is a plate with a single daughter, also kneeling.

At the top and bottom of the memorial are four shields, at the corners. The two shields on the sinister side show a cross on a field of argent, this being represented by lead. On close examination it can be seen that the first quarter is in fact indented with ermine spots, as is to be seen on a coloured shield on a marble monument to a later Shorditche on the south wall of the church. The Shorditche arms are: *argent a cross gules, in the first quarter 5 ermine spots*. The two dexter shields bear Shorditche impaling the arms of Say (that is, the Say and Colebrooke arms quartered). This is a surprising and unlikely arrangement, and transposition must have taken place at a restoration. The Shorditche arms would surely have been placed above and below his figure, and the impaled shields showing the Say arms on the wife's side; or they might have been transposed at the bottom.

The Shorditche family had long associations with Ickenham and the church contains several monuments to them. A London merchant, John Charlton, acquired lands in west Middlesex in the mid-14th century, including the manors of Hillingdon and Ickenham. Hillingdon manor remained in the Charlton family until the attainder of Sir Richard Charlton in 1485, following his death at Bosworth. Ickenham passed on the death of John Charlton at the end of the 14th century to his daughter Juette who had married

*Brasses of Middlesex. Part 19: Ickenham*



Ischolde and for the monument of him w<sup>th</sup> late was knollen  
 both lord & patron of this soule wher in is delyv<sup>d</sup> vnten  
 the seed of gods most holbe woord, whiche freth ever more  
 the soules of zult and godlye men, by whom v<sup>r</sup> lord les-lore  
 of Edmonde Shorditche late Esquire the hodev beare dooth lye  
 amonge his faithfull Amcebars of longe antiquite  
 who of this maner lords haue bin, & patrons of the same  
 whiche longe tyme lorde & long agoe were buried w<sup>th</sup> orat faunt

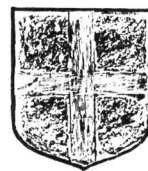


Fig. 3 Edmonde Shorditche, ob. 1584, and wife Ellen

Nicholas Shorediche<sup>5</sup>. The estate remained in the Shorediche family until early in the nineteenth century, when Michael Shorediche, who was Lord of the Manor in 1800<sup>6</sup> and who had apparently mortgaged the property while at University<sup>5</sup> moved to the West Indies, where he married a local heiress in 1813. The only Michael Shordich at Oxford recorded by Foster<sup>7</sup> matriculated in 1767, aet. 18, and became M.A. in 1771, being the son of Richard Shordich of Ickenham. By 1812 the Manor had passed into other hands, no doubt from foreclosure on the mortgage.

There are three memorial tablets of the 17th century on the walls of the church to members of this family and, according to Lysons<sup>6</sup>, there was one to the Rev. John Shoredich who was Rector of Ickenham from 1714 until his death in 1725. There is also a brass plate recording the erection of choir stalls in 1926 in memory of more recent members of the family; John Cleveland Shordiche who died in Antigua in 1864 and his son Edward Ricaut Shordiche who was born in Antigua and died at St James, Minnesota in 1906.

The earliest remaining Shordiche memorial is this brass to Edmond and his wife Ellen, who was a daughter of William Say.

The Say family was of Norman origin, a William Say coming with the Conqueror. The Barony went into abeyance in 1399, when two sisters remained. Nevertheless branches of the family were to be found in several counties: York, Northants., Rutland, Herts., Essex and Sussex, coming ultimately to Middlesex and Oxford. The genealogy of this last branch of the SAYS is somewhat obscure. At first inspection the pedigree shown in the Visitation of Middlesex<sup>3</sup> suggests a straightforward identification of those commemorated by these brasses. The Herald's visitation of the County of Middlesex shows clearly William Say of Ickenham as son of Robert Say of Ickenham, who had married Patience, daughter of Robert White of Christchurch, co. Southampton. Yet Robert's descent and parentage are confused and uncertain; there is indeed a dotted line shown. It is quickly evident that there is no mention here of William of the brass, whose life and relationships may be deduced 1) from the inscription on the brass, 2) from his will, 3) from a Visitation of London made in 1568 and 4) from the parish registers.

The inscription relates that William Say died on the 20th April, 1582, in his 77th year. He was born therefore in 1505. He practised in London as Proctor of the Court of Arches and Registrar of Ecclesiastical Causes for 56 years, during which time he had 16 children by his wife Isabell, namely seven sons and nine daughters and these are shown on the brass.

Corroboration and much interesting information is found in his will<sup>8</sup>. He had considerable leased property in London as well as in the parish of Ickenham and details are given of bequests to his family and to others. It is evident that the most favoured, and therefore presumably the oldest, son was Robert. He is married, but his wife's name is not given. The other sons mentioned are Thomas, William ('now Mr Chancellor of Winchester'), Edward, who is to inherit a house in the parish of St Olave, Old Jewry; and John. He does not, in the will, mention his daughters by Christian name, but rings are given to those who are married, and to their husbands who are referred to as Thomas Haydon, Richard Lambe and Jasper Hawke; also Mr Shordiche and Mr Smith (whose father was sergeant-at-arms). Isabell is clearly their mother. She is appointed sole executrix, while the five sons are appointed overseers and charged to be 'aiding and assisting to their said mother.' Seven sons and nine daughters are shown on the brass, but only five of each are

mentioned in the will, suggesting that six children died young.

Further information can be added to this from the entry under Say in the Visitation of London made in 1568<sup>9</sup>. This shows a different and more positive descent than the Middlesex Visitation from John Say of Podington who had married a Colbrooke, to Robert Say their son, who in turn had issue Hugh Say, married to Elenor, daughter of Henry Monox of Worcestershire (or of Essex, see ref. 10). This couple had as issue William Say of the Arches in the Citie of London. We learn further that he married the daughter of Thomas Netham (this as will appear later is an error for Nelham) of Middlesex, by whom he had issue Robert, son and heir; Thomas, second son; William, third son; Edward, fourth son; John, fifth son, confirming the content of the will. The names of the daughters are also quoted: Ellen, married to Edmond Shordich of Echam (sic!); Ame, married to Richard Hamm; Dorothe, married to Edmond Smyth, son and heir of Smyth sargeant at Armes; Joan, and Barbara. On another sheet the husband of Ame is given as Richard Carne. If this shows some uncertainty it is probable that this daughter's name was Anne, recorded in the Parish Register as marrying Richard Lambe of St Botolffe without Aldergate on 24th February, 1559. The same Visitation of London gives further useful information on the age of William's sons in that year, 1568. Robert was thirty; Thomas, 29; William, 23; Edward, 13; John's age is not given. This confirms that William Say must have married Isabell Nelham around the year 1530-35.

The old parish registers, deposited since 1975 in the Middlesex Record Office, date from 1539 (baptisms & burials) and 1558 (marriages). Thirteen baptisms of children of William and Isabell Say are recorded in the register and three early deaths. It is known from the Visitation of London in 1568 that at least two children were born before the first entry in the register and from the brass that they had sixteen children in all. It is therefore likely that three children were born before 1539. These were Robert, the eldest son and heir; Ellen, or Helyn, who married Edmond Shorediche and became lady of the Manor of Ickenham; and Richard. Richard's birth is not in the register, but his burial as 'the son of Mr Say' took place in 1559 or 1560. The baptism of Thomas Say is the first entry in the book and may have been entered later. It says he was christened on the 4th May 1540, yet the Visitation of London says he was 29 years of age in 1568. The Registry entry gives as his godfathers Thomas Nelham – obviously related to the mother Isabell – and Robert Atley of the parish of Hyllington (q.v.). The children whose births were registered in the Ickenham register were as follows:

Thomas	born	1539 or 1540	
Ann		1540/1	
George		1542	buried 1545
Isabelle		1544	buried 1552/3
William		1545	
Margaret		1546	Margaret buried 1552
Dorothy			
Elizabeth		1547 or 1548	
Joan		1550	
Mary		1551	
Barbara		1553	
Edward		1554	
John		1557	



It is an interesting sidelight on the information provided by these Registers that a limited number of names constantly recurs, christening their own children and being invoked for the godly care of those of their friends. When Isabell Say was not attending a christening of one of her own children she was often there as a godmother.

The following marriages of their children appear in the Register:

Ann Say to Richard Lambe	1559
Dorothy Say to Edmond Smyth	1567
Barbara Say to Jasper Hawke	1571
Thomas Say to Elizabeth Awnsell	1578

This last must have been a second marriage for Thomas, because Jone, wife of Thomas Say, was buried in the N. aisle or family chapel on 23rd June 1576.

Edmond and Dorothy Smyth have a son Henry, baptised in 1576, while an unnamed son is registered to Edmond and Helyn Shorediche in 1565.

Following the death in April 1582 of William Say his eldest son Robert inherited. Robert was described in the 1568 Visitation of London as being then 'of the age of xxxti yeres'. Whether this means 30 or is a written error for 32 is unclear. From the evidence quoted above the earlier date of birth is more reasonable and this would make him 46 years old when he succeeded his father. Robert also married twice. In the Visitation of London he is said to have married the daughter of John Ley (possibly the local family of Atlee, much in evidence in the Registers and at Hillingdon). Some three years after this Visitation the Ickenham Register has an entry that, on 15th October, 1571 'was buried the wife of Robert Say, called Florence'. Thereafter come baptismal entries for the following children of Robert and Pacience Say:

William	1575	(His grandfather was one of
Elizabeth	1579	his godfathers)
Anne	1580	
Edward	1581	buried 1584
Hellena	1582	
Richard	1583	
Charitie	1585	

Two other daughters of Robert Say were buried at Ickenham; Isabell in 1578 and Catherine in 1583, without record of baptism.

The last of their children, Charitie, was baptised on the 6th June, 1585 and, as the entry sadly tells us, was buried on the 8th August of the same year, being the 'daughter of Robert Say (deceased) and Pacience (widow).'

The early 1580s were grievous years for the family. First 'Mr William Say gent. the elder was buryed the 22nd day of Aprill in the year of our lord god 1582'; this is a rather longer entry in the Register than most. Then, two and a half years later, his eldest son and heir to whom so much property and responsibility was left in the will also died and was buried, as it is recorded, '14 November Robert Say gent., in the year of our lord god 1584.' And on 3rd December of the same year, less than three weeks later, 'was buried Edmond Shordiche, Lord of the Manor of Ickenham.' William Say (of the brass) had lived a long life, to his 77th year as is related on the brass and in the will. When he died the two main props of his family followed him two years later. One can imagine the chaos

caused by this triple bereavement. There were three widows left; one who must by now have been at least in her sixties and one carrying child.

The close similarity in style between the three brasses is clear evidence that they were engraved by one hand and almost at one time and the death of three male members of the family provides the explanation of why this was necessary. It is a reasonable deduction that the figure without inscription is undoubtedly that of Robert Say. The White quarterings on his shield of arms is supporting evidence; Robert's widow, Pacience, must have been the Patience White from Hampshire recorded in the Middlesex Visitation as being married to a Robert Say.

Who, one wonders, made provision for the three memorial brasses? How quickly after the death of William Say was his brass engraved and laid? He had in his will requested 'that within twoe yeares nexte after my decease there be sett uppe in somme convenient place nighe where my bodye shall rest some memoriall of me in a table of marble as shalbe conveniente.' His widow was left his sole executrix and, with the 'overseeing' help of her sons, should have proceeded expeditiously with his request. To complete the commission might nevertheless have taken all the time and more that he stipulated. The need for further memorials came immediately upon the last. No doubt Robert helped his mother in settling the affairs of his father, including ordering the monument. When he died too who arranged for his memorial and for that of the Lord of the Manor?

There is a remarkable contrast in tone and sentiment between the two remaining inscriptions. That of William Say is straightforward and factual. His legal mind was evidently pragmatic and adaptable. He must have married in the one and only faith prior to the Reformation. He was engaged as a practising lawyer in the clerical atmosphere of the Court of Arches for 56 years, during which time there were three changes of faith and he continued in office throughout. If he did not write his own inscription he at least seems to have prepared the way for its content and tone. The wording is indeed very close to the preamble to the will: both have the phrase 'in the yeare of Christs most holye incarnation' and both mention that he is in the 77th year of his age. His wife is mentioned by name.

How different is the inscription of his son-in-law Edmonde Shorditche. He is shown on his brass in armour; this and the self-laudatory verses savour much of family pride and long-established residence in the Manor. A wife and children are shown, but there is no mention of them on the inscription, nor are any dates given. It is of course possible that the more factual information was included on a separate plate, long since lost, but there is no evidence for this. Did the widow Ellen cause this brass to be prepared; it is most unlike the simple professional style of her father and mother.

Even more perplexing is the brass to Robert. Why is he not shown, as were his father and brother-in-law, with his wife and children. Was this deliberate by whoever caused the brass to be made? Would it be left to the widow, who was still with child? Or was there a feeling that, being in such condition, it was not propitious to show her already on a tomb? Or was the stone recently lost not the original? There was certainly no room on it for another figure. On the other hand his figure is turned slightly to his left, like that of his father who is half facing his wife. The design of the brass would be better suited if there had been another figure, now lost. . . The absence of children, unless they too have been lost, may perhaps reflect the uncertainty of how many there should be and on the

whole leads to the conclusion that the first explanation is the most likely one for the absence of his family on his brass.

The question who succeeded Robert at Ickenham is even more vexed. His eldest son William (by his second wife; there is no evidence for any children by the first) was born in 1575 and therefore only nine years of age when his father died, too young to take an active part in the running of affairs. With two of her children buried in the same year as her husband and with five children up to the age of nine to bring up Patience can hardly have had sufficient time, whether or not her mother-in-law was still alive and active. Of Robert's brothers Thomas had been married in Ickenham some eight years earlier, but there is no further parish record of him. The next son William had been described in the father's will as Chancellor of Winchester, a legal appointment which would, one might expect, require residence or at least frequent presence in that city. There is also record at Winchester<sup>(11)</sup> that one William Say, B.C.L. was created Canon of Winchester in 1583 and continued in that capacity until his death in 1615. As he was lawyer as well as priest it seems likely that this Canon was indeed the Chancellor.

The most likely successor, in a temporary capacity, was Robert's younger brother Edward, while of the youngest John there is no further mention. Edward had been left in his father's will a house 'sett lyinge and beinge in the parrishe of Saincte Olave in the olde Jurye in London whiche I have and enjoye in reversion after the decease of my cosen Humfreye Abbott, . . . provided alwaies that duringe the life of my saide cosen unto whome I am Gardaine by graunte from the Queene's maiestie and her courte of Wardes and lyveries my wiffe or one of my sonnes that shall have the kepinge of him after my decease shall have the same house withe thappurtenances duringe the saide Humfries life together withe suche graunte as I have from the saide courts for ye kepinge & governmente of him duringe his life.' Whether Edward lived in the City he did have close contact with Ickenham for several years. Following the baptism and burial of Robert's last child Charitie in 1585 there are just three more Say entries and these are to children of Edward. They were Edward, baptised on 22nd December, 1586; William, baptised on 25th May, 1589 and John, third son of Edward Say, buried the 3rd July, 1590, being baptised at home. This burial is the last mention of the name of Say in the parish registers of Ickenham.

What happened to the young William Say? The simple explanation is that offered by the Heralds Visitation of Middlesex<sup>9</sup> and corroborated by John Philpott's Visitation of Oxford in 1634<sup>12</sup>. William Say of Ickenham, the son of Robert and Patience is shown married to Anne, daughter of Sir Edward Fenner, knight and one of the Judges of the Kings Bench (he was <sup>13</sup> son of John Fenner of Crawley, Sussex; was admitted to the Middle Temple from 'Le Newe Inne' in 1557; a Bencher and Reader in 1576, serjeant-at-law the following year and a Judge of the Queen's Bench in 1590; he died 23rd January, 1611/2. His son and heir, Edward Fenner, was admitted to the Middle Temple 3rd July, 1593<sup>14</sup>) There were three sons and one daughter by this marriage according to the Visitations. The eldest son was Edward Say of Blechingdon, co. Oxon. Esq., who was living in 1634; the second son was William Say, Barister, also of the Middle Temple, while the third son, Robert, is described as 'in Academia Oxon.' Now this makes for great difficulty. The only Robert Say recorded by Foster<sup>15</sup> is indeed 'Robert Say of Middlesex gent.' who matriculated at New College in October, 1594, aet. 18 (He took his B.A. in 1599 and was by 1614 D.D.. His life was spent as a parish priest, moving at frequent

intervals. He was at Ickenham in 1624 for one year before moving to Kent.). This Robert was therefore born in 1576, just one year after William Say of Ickenham, supposedly his father! Apart from this inaccuracy it is surprising that, if William and Anne Say were well established 'of Ickenham' as the Visitation says, there is no further entry of births, marriages or burials in Ickenham parish registers of this family; and this despite the building of a North aisle by grandfather William (of the brass) as a burial chapel for the family. The mystery must be left unsolved.

It is interesting to note the continuing association of this family with the law and with the Middle Temple. One curious entry among Admissions to the Middle Temple concerns a William Say of Slinford, Sussex, already deceased, whose eldest son Edward and whose second son William were both admitted to the Middle Temple on the same day, 15th August, 1622. Could it be that William Say of Ickenham died without local record, and that his widow returned to the County of her birth? After qualifying, Edward could then have settled at Blechingdon while William, who had been born in 1604, became M.P. for Camelford in 1647 and a member of the Long Parliament. He was among the signatories of the death warrant of Charles I and died abroad after the Restoration. Another William Say was admitted to the Middle Temple in 1655, eldest son of Edward Say of Woodstock, Oxon.

The residence of the Say family in Ickenham was clearly of shorter duration than the Shordiches. William Say of the brass as a lawyer may at times have been a rather tiresome neighbour. Among items in the Court Rolls of the Manor is one of date 1563<sup>16</sup> of a true bill that at Ickenham in the county of Middlesex on the said day (25th July) a number of people, many from Ruislip, 'assembled in warlike manner, and broke riotously into the close of William Says, gentleman, and unlawfully carried away four wainloads of wheat there late growing belonging to the said William Says, and worth twelve pounds.' No less than twenty three persons, including two described as gentleman and five women, were charged. One wonders what lay behind this.

William Say built the north aisle of the present church, which he clearly intended as a chapel for his family burials. Here too he expressed some discontent in his will. 'And whære the parishioners of Ickenham doe remaine debtors to me for the charges that I laide oute for making of all the brick<sup>s</sup> that wente to the newe Ile or chappell there, as doethe trulie by accompte' therof withe me remayninge appears, I am content . . .'

At some time this aisle has been fitted with pews and there is no sign of where his 'marble' was placed, or whether it still exists under the pews. The brasses were moved to the wall. It is surprising how little Lysons has to say of this family of Say. He mentions the brasses and that William was builder of the north aisle. This too is all that the Victoria County History says.

4. *A coffin plate, now on the wall of the vestry, for Thomas Vyner, 1707.*

A rectangular plate, 11 in. high and 9½ in. wide is screwed on the west wall of the former vault, now used as a vestry, at the west end of the north aisle, or Say chapel. The inscription on it is in cursive script and reads:

Thomas Vyner Esq.  
Died att Rome  
in his Travells

y<sup>e</sup> 6th of Dec.<sup>br</sup> 1707  
 in y<sup>e</sup> 49th yeare  
 of his age

Below this is a crude drawing of a skull and crossbones within what appear to be feathered wings.

The manor of Swakeleys was in the possession of Sir Robert Vyner in 1665 when Pepys paid a visit to the house – ‘and better, or such furniture I never did see’. They were joined at dinner by Lady Vyner: ‘I find yet handsome, but hath been a very handsome woman: now is old. Hath brought him near £100,000 and now lives no man in England in

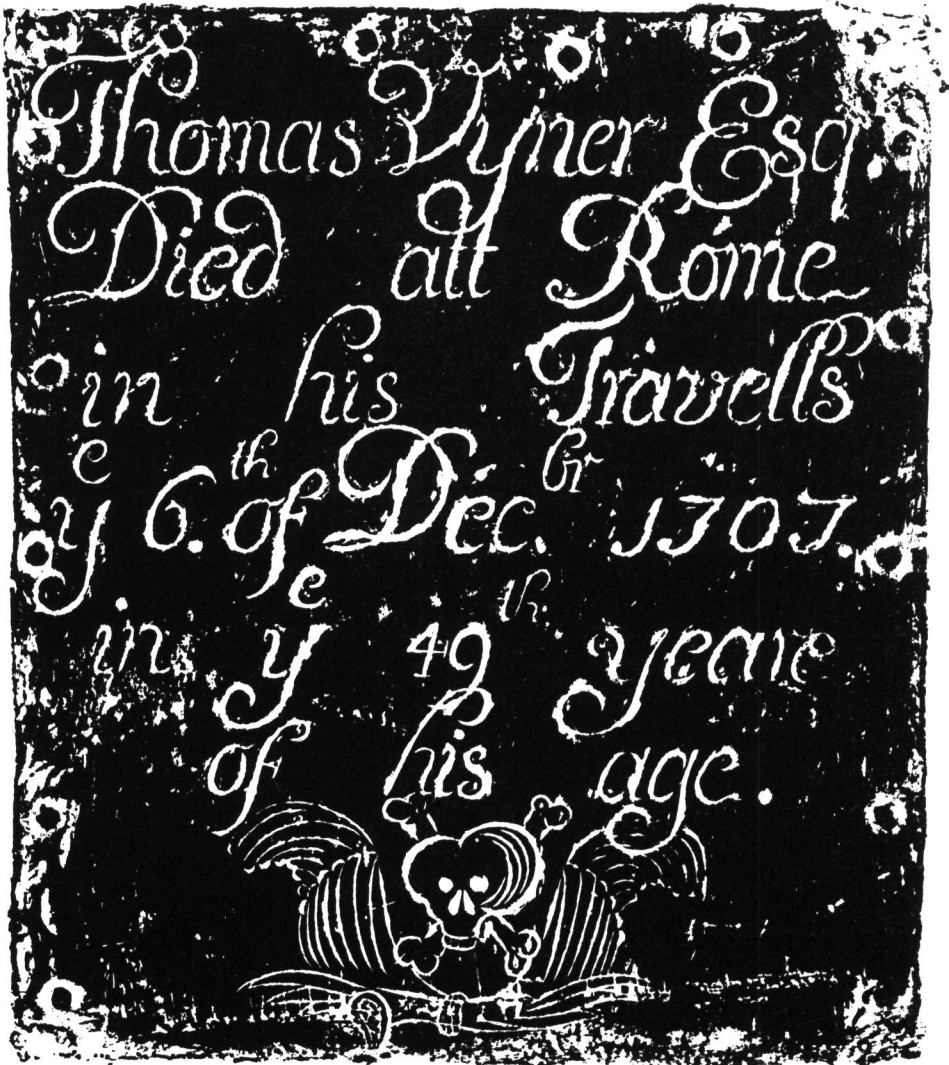


Fig. 4 Thomas Vyner, ob. 1707

greater plenty and commands both King and Council with his credit he gives them.<sup>17</sup> This Sir Robert Vyner entertained Charles II at Guildhall when he was Lord Mayor. On the death of Sir Robert Vyner in 1688 the manor passed to his nephew, Thomas Vyner who, as recorded, died on his travels when in Rome. In 1707 the manor was inherited by Thomas' son Robert and he sold it in 1741 to a Huguenot widow Sarah Lethieullier.<sup>18</sup>

The oldest plate belonging to the church, a silver flagon and a paten, were given by Sir Robert Vyner in 1682.

I would acknowledge with thanks the help provided me by the Rector, Revd. P. Kelly, first in giving permission to take rubbings of the brass to Robert Say and of the coffin plate of Thomas Vyner, and also for loaning me a file of cuttings from the Ickenham Church News of a history of Ickenham, written by Mr Morris W. Hughes, from which I have copied an extract from the Court Rolls of an affray and theft of corn from William Say. I would also like to thank Mr D. A. Chivers for taking rubbings of the brasses of William Say and of Edmond Shorditche and for lending them for the purpose of illustrating this article.

## HORNSEY

In the account of the brasses at Hornsey in *Transactions 28 (1977)* it is stated on page 314 that William Priestley bequeathed to his son William property near to Brewham in the parish of Waltham Abbey. It has been kindly pointed out to me by Dr K. N. Bascombe of the Waltham Abbey Historical Society that I have misread the will and that the word is Brewhouse. The property left was near to the Brewhouse in the parish of Waltham Abbey. I regret allowing this error to appear in print.

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|---|---|
| 1 Clutterbuck, R. History of Hertfordshire, Vol. III, p.194.  | 10 Visitation of Essex, Harl. Soc., Vol. XIII, p.80.  |
| 2 Waller, J.G. & L.A.B. A Series of Monumental Brasses, 1864, Pl. 45.                               | 11 Le Neve, Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae, Winchester, 1974, p.96.   |
| 3 Visitation of Middlesex, Harl. Soc., Vol. LXV, p.160.   | 12 Visitation of Oxford, Harl. Soc., Vol. V, p.252.   |
| 4 Visitation of Sussex, Harl. Soc., Vol. LIII, p.16.  | 13 Foss, Judges of England, 1870, p.247.  |
| 5 C.P.25(1)/150/56/96; see V.C.H., Middlesex, Vol. IV, 1971, p.102/3.                               | 14 Macgeagh & Sturgess, Register of Admissions to the Middle Temple, 1949, Vol. I.  |
| 6 Lysons, Those parishes in the County of Middlesex not described in the Environs of London, p.190. | 15 Foster, p.1321.  |
| 7 Jos. Foster, Alumni Oxoniensis, 1888, p.1291.   | 16 Copied from Mr Morris W. Hughes who has transcribed some of the entries in the Court Rolls, first in Middlesex Pictorial and reproduced in the Ickenham Church News for October, 1970. |
| 8 P.C.C. 22 Tirwhite, Prob 11/64.   | 17 Samuel Pepys, Diary: entry for 7th September, 1665.  |
| 9 Visitation of London in 1568, Harl. Soc., Vol. CIX & CX, p.80.                                    | 18 V.C.H., Middlesex, Vol. IV, pp.103, 108.   |