

THE BRASSES OF MIDDLESEX

PART 22

KINGSBURY and LITTLETON

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KINGSBURY St. Andrew (old church)

I. John Shepard, *ob.* 1520, and wives, Anne and Mawde, inscription and children; N. wall of Chancel

This brass was mentioned by Lysons (1795, 234), at which time it was lying in the nave. Mill Stephenson in his list (1926, 306) found it on the chancel wall, where it now is (Fig. 1). A line drawing of the brass is illustrated by Potter (1928, 36).

This is a typical memorial of this early Tudor period to a civilian and his family; it is small and of no great artistic merit. His figure is centrally placed and in full

face to the beholder. His wives are on either side and half turned towards him. Each figure is just $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. The gown of the man can be seen to be fur-lined where it is turned back down the opening at the front. The collar is also of fur. The two wives have fur cuffs and each has a long, ornamented pendant hanging from a waistbelt and reaching almost to ground level. The wife on the dexter side wears a kennel headdress; the other has a simpler veil turned back off her forehead.

Immediately below is an inscription in three lines of blackletter, on a rectangular plate 4" high and $20\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. This reads:

Pray for the soules of John Shepard Anne & Mawde
his wyfes whiche John decessed the xv day of Aprell
the yere of o^r lord m^o v^c xx on whose soules ihū have mercy

Below this inscription are four separate plates with groups of children on each. By the wife on the dexter side are seven sons and three daughters, below the other

wife five sons and three daughters. These are cut from conventional strips of children, all about $5\frac{1}{2}$ " high.

II. Susan Gawen, *ob.* 1607

On the same wall, within the sanctuary, is a late inscription in Roman capitals.

This is on a rectangular brass plate measuring $7\frac{1}{4}$ " high and $21\frac{3}{4}$ " wide (Fig. 2). It is in seven lines and reads:

SUSAN LATE WYFE OF THOMAS GAWEN AND
DAUGHTER OF THOMAS SCVDAMORE BY FRANCIS BORNE
LYES BVRYED HEERE BY DEATHS VNPARTIAL HAND
REFT FROM HER DEAREST FRENDTS THEY LEFT TO MOVRNE
THEIR LOSSE OF HER WHO WAS THROVGH ALL HER LIFE
A LOYALL DAUGHTER AND A LOVING WIFE
SHE DIED A^O DÑI 1607

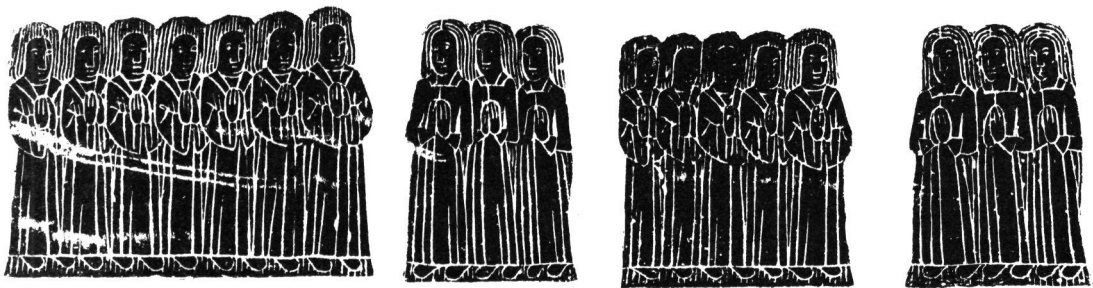


Fig. 1. Kingsbury Old Church: John Shepard and two wives, 1520.

This inscription was originally accompanied by a figure of a lady, 30" high, of which a poor rubbing exists in the library of the Society of Antiquaries. Her Paris headdress is of typical late Elizabethan style, with the lappet turned up over the top of the head. Over this she wears a hood falling like a cape on the

shoulders and hanging around the ruff. The outer gown is plain and open in front, revealing a petticoat with elaborate diagonal pattern. She has a pointed stomacher and a hooped skirt or farthingale. She stands upon a circular base, a feature common on engravings of this date.

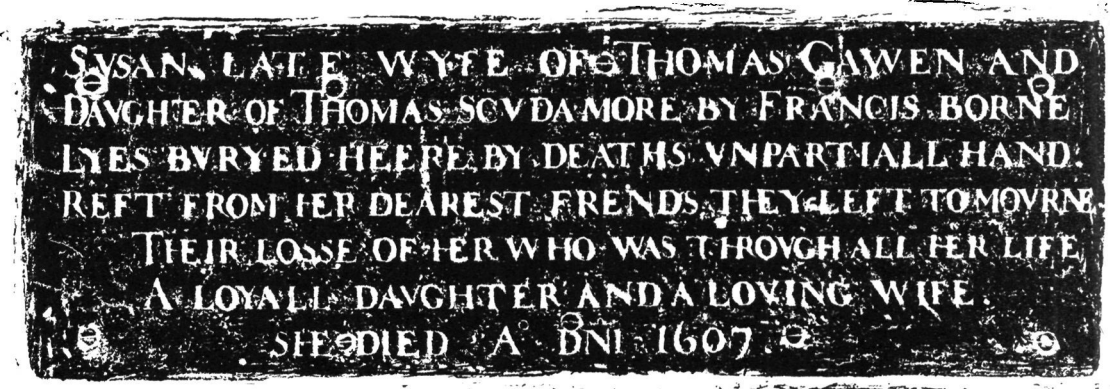


Fig. 2. Kingsbury Old Church: Susan Gawen, 1607.

III. Thomas Scudamore, *ob.* 1626

On the opposite wall to No. II is another brass inscription, commemorat-

ing Susan's father (Fig. 3). It is a plate 22" wide and 6" high on which are six lines of Roman capitals, reading:

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF THOMAS SCVDAMORE GENT. SER= VANT VNTQ QVEENE ELIZABETH & K^E JAMES, 47 YEARES WHO HAD TWO WIFES SVSAN & FRANCIS & HAD ISSVE BY THEM 6 SONNES & 5 DAUGHTERS & CHANGED THIS LIFE IN THE FEARE OF GOD THE 10 DAYE OF SEPTEMBER 1626 BEING OF THE AGE OF LXXVII YEARES.

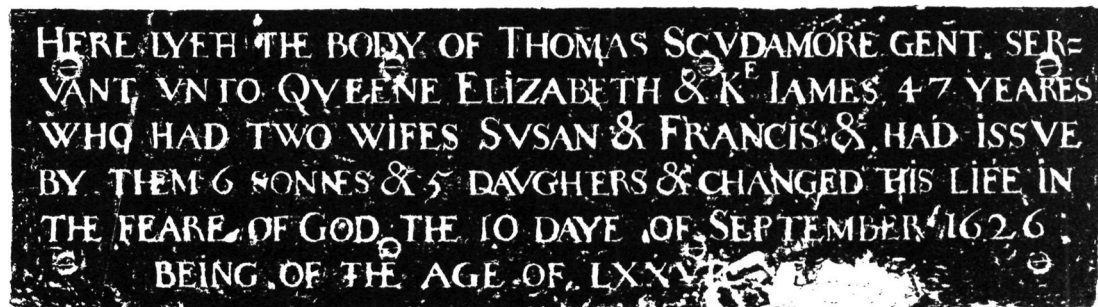


Fig. 3. Kingsbury Old Church: Thomas Scudamore, 1626.

KINGSBURY St. Andrew (new church)

Between the two wars the residential population in and around Kingsbury increased greatly in numbers. The old parish church of St. Andrew was no longer large enough for the size of congregation. As a local resident in the early thirties it was possible to watch a most remarkable translation of a church. The magnificent early Victorian church designed by Dawkes and built in the fashionable west end of London—in Wells Street—became redundant. It was dismantled in 1931 and, stone by stone, reerected on a good site at Kingsbury adjacent to the old church. Originally built in 1847 it was reconsecrated at Kingsbury in 1934. Many of the furnishings are from the hands and design of the leading church artists of the nineteenth century. It is not a historical church of Middlesex, yet has come complete with its furnishings into

the County. Several brasses of the Victorian period are in this church, including two with figures of the deceased which deserve mention in this account.

The earlier commemorates Vicesimus Knox (Fig. 4), who died in 1855. His figure, which is 30" high, stands on a grassy mound on which flowers are growing. At his neck is a large bow and over his buttoned coat he wears a long fur-lined and fur-trimmed robe with long false sleeves. Around the head is a curved scroll on which is engraved a cross and, in blackletter, the words: 'Lord remember me.' This well-engraved figure, lying now as no doubt it always has, on the nave floor at the foot of the chancel steps, is already showing signs of wear from the trampling of many feet. Below the figure is a rectangular plate, 5½" by 21", on which, in four lines of blackletter, is the following inscription:

In memoriam viri dilectissimi Vicesimi Knox
qui obiit xxv^{to} die Jan^u A.D. Mdcclv. aetatis suae
lxxvii. Grati animi testimonio ponendum curavit
Vidua sua Lucy Knox x^{mo} die Aprilis A.D. Mdcclvi

The name Vicesimus is curious and was the Christian name of four successive generations of this family. The grandfather of the one commemorated by this brass, the Reverend Vicesimus Nock, later Knock and yet later Knox, was born the son of a London vicar in 1728. He was educated at Merchant Taylors school and St. Johns College, Oxford (Hart 1936). He returned to Merchant Taylors as a master from 1753 to 1772 in which year he became headmaster of Tonbridge, retiring in 1778. He died two years later and is commemorated in Tonbridge church. His only son, also Vicesimus, was born in 1752 and was also educated at Merchant Taylors and St. Johns College, Oxford. He held a Fellowship at St. Johns from 1775 to 1778, during which time he,

too, was ordained. In 1778 he succeeded his father as headmaster of Tonbridge. With two livings in Essex he retired to London in 1812 to pursue further the writing by which he achieved sufficient notice to merit his inclusion in the Dictionary of National Biography.¹ He died in 1821 and was also commemorated by a monument in Tonbridge church. Two of his three sons survived to adult life and both were educated at Tonbridge school (Hart 1935, 20, 186, 188). The younger of the two, Thomas, went on to Brasenose College, Oxford, and succeeded to the headmastership of Tonbridge when his father retired in 1812. He died in office at the age of 59 in 1843. He, too, was buried in Tonbridge church. This Thomas had four sons who were all at Ton-



Fig. 4. Kingsbury New Church: Vicesimus Knox, 1855.

bridge while their father was headmaster. The eldest, also Vicesimus, died at the age of sixteen.

The elder surviving son of the well known writer was the Vicesimus whose brass was placed in the church at Wells Street and is now at Kingsbury. He too was a pupil at Tonbridge from 1786 to 1795, being head boy in his last year. He was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1796 and called to the bar in 1804. He became Recorder of Saffron Walden and, in 1848, a Bencher of the Inner Temple. Hence the legal robe in which he is depicted on this brass.

A second brass in the church is a rec-

tangular plate measuring 24½" by 17" (Fig. 5). It shows the threequarter length figure of Frederick Nicholl in contemporary civilian dress and wearing over it his academic gown and hood. The head suggests portraiture: a furrowed forehead and hair thinning on top, with copious side whiskers. The background to the figure is plain, but with a border of foliage pattern. In a small circle in the centre at the top of the border is a crest with a bird on a tower. The figure is just over 17" high. The bottom five inches of the plate is devoted to a small shield with arms and a five line inscription in blackletter. This reads:

To the Glory of God and in memory of
Frederick Iltid Nicholl M.A.
for twenty five years warden of this Church
born July 5 1814. entered into rest Feb. 25 1893
Make him to be numbered with Thy Saints in Glory everlasting

This plate is signed by the engravers, Barkentin & Krall, London, in the bottom left-hand corner. Frederick Nicholl was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge (Venn 1951, 544), taking his BA in 1836 and MA three years later. In 1840 he was admitted as a solicitor and he practised in the Strand. In 1844 he married Eliza Louisa, daughter of William Bode Esq. of Wargrave Lodge in Henley-on-Thames and of Harley Street. The arms on the shield are those of Nicholl of Llantwitt-Major, co. Glamorgan: *Sable, three pheons argent*, and the crest of this family is given by Burke as: *a Cornish chough wings elevated proper perched on the battlements of a tower argent*.

There are two other late nineteenth century brasses in this church. They are engraved with crosses and inscription. One is to Kenneth Herbert Eddes, *ob.* 27 March, 1888, *aet.* 23 and to Lucy Caroline Olliant, *ob.* 10 May, 1891. Both died in India and the plate was put in the church by their father, Arthur S. Eddes, MA.

The other inscription, and Celtic cross, commemorates John Scott, *ob.* 22 January, 1892 and his wife Johanna, *ob.* 30 March, 1898.

I am grateful to Mr D. A. Chivers for telling me of the presence of these brasses in this church at Kingsbury and particularly indebted to him for lending his excellent rubbings of the two figure brasses for illustration in this paper. He also kindly made a new rubbing of the Shepard brass especially for this paper. The two inscriptions are illustrated from rubbings made by the author in July, 1954.

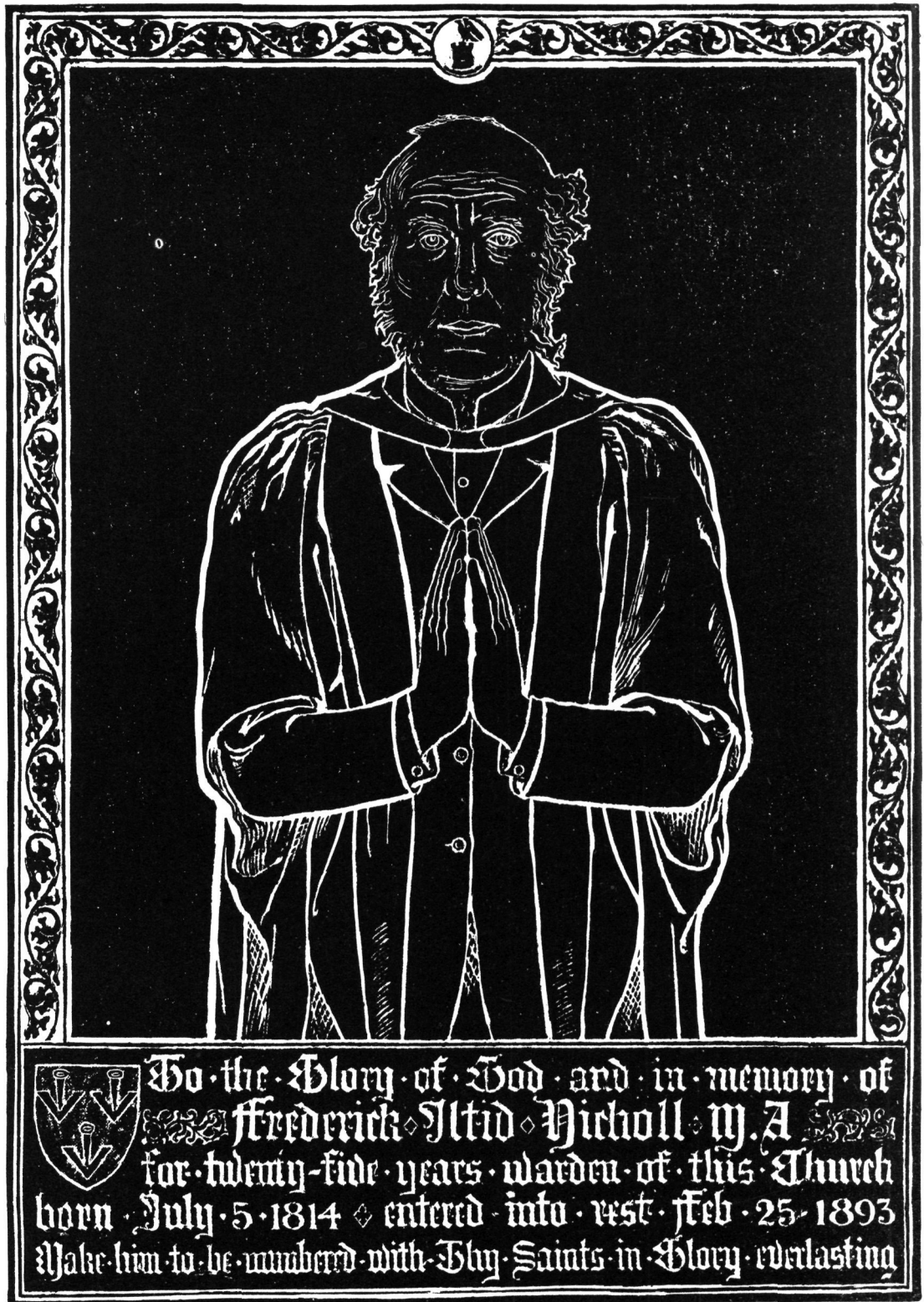


Fig. 5. Kingsbury New Church: Frederick Nicholl, 1893.

LITTLETON

I. Inscription to Lady Blanche Castell, ob. 1553, second wife of Sir Hugh Vaughan of Westminster

Lysons (1800, 203) records that 'on the chancel floor is a brass plate in memory of Blanche, wife of Sir Hugh Vaughan, who died in 1553.' It was more recently affixed to the north wall of the chancel (R.C.H.M. 1937, 92), though, curiously,

it was reported by Mill Stephenson to have been once on a chest tomb. In recent years, transferred to the nave wall, it has suffered corrosion from a lime plaster wall and is now loose in the vestry.²

There remains an inscription plate, $3\frac{1}{4}$ " by $23\frac{3}{8}$ " (now), set below two roses inscribed 'Jhū' and 'Mcy', with a shield of arms immediately below the inscription (Fig. 6). The inscription is in three lines of blackletter and reads:

Here lyeth lady Blanche Vaughan sometye wyfe of Syr Hugh Vaughan knyght who lyeth buried at Westmynst' whych lady Blanche cessed the viiith day of decēber An^o dñi m^o v^o liiii whose soules Jhū pdo

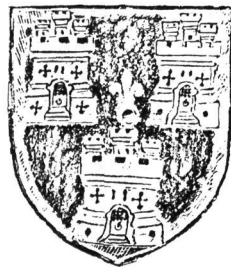


Fig. 6. Littleton: Lady Blanche Vaughan, 1553.



Fig. 7. Littleton: Lady Blanche Vaughan, reverse of shield.

A very small piece at the end of this inscription is missing. On this would have been, in the first line, the 'g' in Vaughan, the letters 'de' in the second line, and presumably 'on' in the third.

André (1895, 212) illustrated these two roses, but believed they were no part of the brass to Blanche Vaughan. He says: 'Two roses bearing the words Jhu Mcy form part of a brass at Littleton, Middlesex, c. 1450, but the arms and inscription now on the same slab do not belong to this memorial.' Some three years later Mill Stephenson (1900, 221) read a paper before the St. Pauls Ecclesiological Society entitled 'Notes on the Brasses of Middlesex'. Again the two roses are illustrated and Stephenson writes: 'At Littleton are two roses inscribed 'Jbu-Mcy', date about 1460, no doubt portions of some larger memorial, but now relaid.' There were, according to Stephenson, originally four roses on the original stone. It seems therefore that a memorial stone in which were set four inscribed roses was appropriated for the later commemoration of Lady Blanche. As further evidence of the economy exercised by those preparing the later memorial, the shield of arms beneath the inscription is reused scrap metal from an earlier brass of date about 1520. It is cut from a group of children of which five daughters can be counted on the engraving now on the

reverse side (Fig. 7). The arms on the shield appear to be *argent, three castles triple-turreted . . . , a fleur-de-lys in fess point for difference*. The nearest coat to this quoted in Burke is Castell (co. Cambridge): *argent three towers triple-turreted gules*. The same arms were used by the family in the counties of Cumberland, Warwick and Devon. There is no heraldry remaining to show evidence of her marriage. Sir Hugh Vaughan of St. Peter, Westminster and Littleton in Middlesex married as his first wife Anne, daughter of Henry, Earl of Northumberland and widow of Thomas Hungerford.³ He received a grant of arms on 27 March, 1508 (Burke, 1051). In another reference close by in Burke these same arms are quoted as borne by Sir Hugh Vaughan, Governor of Jersey. This may account for the quartering of speared fishes' heads not found on other Vaughan arms. The pedigree in the Middlesex Visitation starts only with Sir Hugh Vaughan, following this grant of arms in the reign of Henry VIII. The brief entry shows just two sons by Blanche, his second wife; George and Francis, the second dying in 1600. The coat of arms differs from the many others of the name, mostly Welsh, quoted in Burke, or from the Vaughan arms on the shields of Sir Thomas Parry, the grandson of Sir Thomas Vaughan, both of whom were commemorated by brasses in Westminster Abbey (Wright 1969, 40). There does not seem to be any close connection between Sir Hugh and these others of the name at Westminster.

Sir Hugh died in 1536 and in his will⁴ asks to be buried 'in the church of the monastery of St. Peter of Westminster within the chapel of St. Michell, or within the parish church of Lyttelton, at the discretion of myn executors.' It is evident from the inscription to Lady Blanche that he was interred at Westminster. The only possible evidence in what was the chapel

of St. Michael, now part of the east aisle of the north transept, is a worn indent probably of two figures with an inscription plate below (R.C.H.M. 1924, 47). In his will he leaves money to his four daughters, Jane, Anne, Elizabeth and Kateryn, the youngest, to be paid on their marriage day or when they reach the age of 21. To his widow, Blanche, he leaves his 'mansion place of Lyttelton called Ipwell' and other property at Feltham and at Holborn 'within the suburbs of the City of London which lately I purchased of Giles Heron, with a garden called Bell Ally in Westminster': and a 'mansion place in Westminster which I hold of the Abbot until the tyme my son and heir come to the full age of 21.' He appointed Dame Blanche and Anthony Vaughan his son as executors and the overseers of the will included two of Dame Blanche's brothers, Edmund and Richard Castell. Blanche's property

is to go to George on her death, while George and Francis are to receive money if and when they reach the age of 21.

The illustration is from a rubbing made by the author in September, 1947.

NOTES

1. Dictionary of National Bibliography Vol. 31, 334.
2. It is understood that at the time of writing (May 1982) a repair is imminent: the brass is to be mounted on a board by Wm. Lack and fixed to the wall.
3. 'Visitation of Middlesex' *Harl. Soc.* 65 (1914) 65.
4. PCC Wills F40 Hogen

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