

TOMBSTONES IN THE GRAVEYARD OF LOUGHBOROUGH PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

The recording of the memorial inscriptions in the churchyard of Loughborough Parish Church of All Saints was an idea of Mr. B.C.J. Williams. It was begun on 16th May, 1975 by members of his Local Studies Group of the Loughborough Branch of the Workers Educational Association.

This major project was eventually continued and completed in about 1979 by Mrs. A. Richmond and Miss P.M. White, assisted at some time by Mrs. D. Davis and Mrs. H. Fisher. The task of checking and the preparation of the indexes was undertaken by Mrs. J.E. Bates and Miss P.M. White, who also wrote the introductory article. The photographs were taken by Mr. E.J. Miller and the drawings prepared by Mr. J. Bates. The full text of the tombstones section was typed by Mrs. A. Tarver; other sections by Mrs. P. Barram and Mrs. G. Brentnall.

Ten years have elapsed and it says much for the ladies involved that, when publication became possible by the Loughborough and District Archaeological Society, they enthusiastically re-read the whole work and carefully undertook those amendments which the passage of time always uncovers. In an age where so much of the past is being destroyed, this work exists as a permanent record of former days.

Purposes of the Survey

The main purpose of this survey was to record the monumental inscriptions before they were lost for ever. Erosion and damage takes its toll over the years and the legibility and indeed the actual number of surviving stones becomes less with each passing decade, although we are fortunate in this area that the majority of the headstones are of slate. This presents a very fine surface and thus the damage by erosion and lichens is less than with coarse grained stones.

Formerly the care of the churchyard was in the hands of the incumbent, and to facilitate this the headstones were removed from their original sites and arranged round the perimeter of the churchyard, while some were laid as paving around the church and have suffered breakage. Others are now so deeply buried that the inscriptions are partly obscured. Further damage is caused by saplings growing up along the railings, and the fact that the footpath is used by the public (and their dogs) adds to the vulnerability of the churchyard. Present responsibility for maintenance rests with the local authority, Charnwood Borough Council.

Introduction

There are almost one thousand tombstones in the churchyard of All Saints, Loughborough. The earliest individual surviving stone is in memory of William Hubbard, an ironmonger, buried in 1690, while the latest ones occur in the 1850s, the first burial in the Municipal Cemetery on Leicester Road taking place in 1857. The stones no longer mark the resting places of the departed since they were reset around the perimeter of the churchyard, as paving round the curtilage of the church and within the Rectory Garden in the 1960s. Poor Richard Donisthorpe could not have foreseen this, when he caused to be erected over his wife's grave a stone 'to Perpetuate the memory and to Preserve Undisturbed the Remains of Mary' - she departed this life in 1797.

The original positions of the vaults and stones - some of which were placed inside the church - indicate that the inscriptions were also meant to be read by the passer-by. For example:

Pray reader stay and drop a tear and think on me who now
lies here
And while you read, this take from me Think on ye glass
that runs for thee.

and

All you that come my Grave to see
As I am now so must you be
Therefore repent make no delay
I suddenly was snatched away.

and another solemn warning:

Reader, who e'er thou art that comes to see
This awful Scene of sad mortality

Hark! from these subterraneous Vaults a cry,
Mortals repent, believe and learn to die;
Obey the solemn Voice, thy Danger see
On this depends a bless'd Eternity.

Others give the idea of a soul going on a journey, even crossing a sea, for instance:

The vale of Death, with peace serene he trod,
His dying hour brought glory to his God:
His happy spirit, thro' redeeming love,
Clap't its glad wings and flew to realms above.

or:

Surviving Friends lament for me no more
I'm safe arriv'd on the Celestial shore
Free from all Earthly troubles fears or pains
Where Everlasting joy and comfort Reigns.

Nichols, in his *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* published in 1804, says 'the church is full of gravestones, but since the price has been advanced from 6/8d to £5 burials inside are much less frequent'. From Nichols' notes and their own worn condition, we can identify several which quite possibly were moved outside at the time of Gilbert Scott's restoration in 1862. Even a matrix suffered the same fate, its brass, supposedly to a member of the Lemyngton family, long since gone.

We would now like to discuss the varying aspects which can be gleaned from the monumental inscriptions, i.e. causes of death; social circumstances; attitudes; the tombstones as art, and finally the purpose of the survey.

Causes of Death

Childbirth

Our forebears were not averse to mentioning the excruciating pangs of childbirth; for instance, Ann, the wife of Lemuel Holmes, suffered in this way, which led at an early age of 24 'to her Dissolution in the Bloom of Life' in 1790. The child also died. In 1771 Catherine, the wife of Mr William Carr, died and she and her infant daughter are commemorated as follows:

Though the pangs of Childbirth sure are great
We must all endure what's deem'd our fate
Sweet babe to all friends bid adieu
To sleep in silent Dust as All must do.

Seven babes lie with Hannah Troth, who died in childbed in 1826. In the roundel at the head of the large stone is the text, 'The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, Blessed be the name of the Lord.' A lengthy verse follows:

But e'er she'd been a Wife seven years
She was took from this Vale of Tears
The seventh Infant ne'er was born
But caus'd her Death, and Friends to mourn
But now she's Bless'd amongst the Just
Earth to Earth and Dust to Dust
Not all her Friends nor Doctor's art
Could to her aid or help impart ...

Childbearing frequently continued over a period of twenty years and we read that Ann, wife of Isaac North, died in childbed in 1805 at the age of 42. Further examples merely state that 'Ann Throsby died in childbed in 1807 aged 27' and 'Sarah Hooper, the draper's wife, died in childbed in 1805, aged 37'.

Infants and young children

A surprisingly large number of stones, around fifty, describe the loss of infants and young children, referring to 'spotless doves' and 'lovely buds'. It is not unusual to find four or five or more children of one family; conversely, a single stone was often erected for a baby, such as that of Francis Burkill who died in 1784 aged nine weeks or of Elizabeth Onyon who died 1737/8 aged one year seven months. Verses are a mixture of resignation and pious hope, such as that for Samuel Goodman, 1791, aged seven:

Too early snatch'd away thou lovely boy
Thy parents pleasing Hope and fondest Joy
They feel the smarting wound yet kiss the Rod
Not doubting th'art an Angel with thy God.

and for Susannah Statham Hickling, 1866, aged eleven:

Weep not my Friends I loved so dear
A crown of life is given
The bud that could not flourish here
Now blooms a Flower in Heaven.

Ann Bennett outlived her nine children, five of them died in infancy, two other daughters died as young women in 1818, another daughter lived to be only thirty-four and the surviving one died ten years before her mother in 1845.

Two infants of eight months and twenty months were lost in 1818 within three weeks of one another. Their verse goes:

Stout Blossoms, doomed in early life to fade
And lie neglected in the gloomy Shade
Yet you shall spring again in Beauty rise
To grace the flowery scenes of Paradise.

An eighteenth century stone to Samuel and Ruth Adams tells us 'near this Place are interred seven of their children', and as early as 1719 Sarah Randon, who died in her sixth year, is commemorated. By 1777 the three little sons of Robert Draper were interred with the following sentiments:

As careful Nurses to the bed do lay
Their children which too long would wanton play
So to prevent all our ensuing crimes
Nature our Nurse laid us to bed betimes.

A more high flown passage accompanies the departure of James Basford - a possible reluctance to state simply that he had died caused the following inscription: 'Here and secure from this uncertain world in happy silence sleep the Remains of James son of George and Elizabeth Basford who on the 27th Sept. 1757 was by Death's silent Summons recalled to taste those Joys Above when after 18 months from Nonexistence he did leave the garb of Mortality and through the power of his Redeptor his soul high soar'd unto a life of bliss. Go Spectator prepare and be assured those Bones shall rise again and on ye day of Judgement be gathered together in the presence of Almighty God.' Robert and Mary Wykes buried their twelve year old son in 1778 near the spot where four more of their infant children lay. Their sad acceptance is revealed in this verse:

Children are blessings bounteous Heaven sends
To be our comforts, born to Noble ends
In little time these comforts Heaven takes
Demands a mortal; and an Angel makes.
Let not weak finite Man then dare repine
The stroke is awful but the hand Divine.

The memorial to the children of George and Ann Handley shows that death was a frequent visitor. John, aged four, died on 24 December 1834 and Richard, aged one year, died six days later. George, aged two years nine months,

followed his brothers when only another week had elapsed on 6 January 1835.

These lovely babes, so young and fair
Call'd hence by early doom
Just came to show how sweet a flow'r
In paradise would bloom.

A later child, another John, born in 1835, was buried in an adjoining grave six years later.

Sometimes the same verse is used again, for instance:

The great Jehovah full of love
An Angel bright did send
To fetch this little spotless dove
To joys that never end.

and

The great Jehovah from above,
His messenger did send,
To fetch these little spotless doves,
To joys which never end.

Accidents

We learn of events of the times which might otherwise have faded from memory- on 9 July 1767 a tragedy occurred when Thomas Bombroffe, aged forty-six, William Peck, aged twenty, and William Smith, aged eighteen, were unfortunately drowned together in the River Soar and subsequently buried in the same grave. 'It is presumed that T. Bombroffe lost his Life by endeavouring to save his two companions for he only was found in his Clothes. Some of the principal Inhabitants of this Parish tenderly concerned for the sudden Fate of these their Fellow Christians and for a personal Warning to all others cause this Stone to be erected by voluntary Subscription. READER, be thou constantly prepared for Death to which thou art exposed every Hour by Accident by Carelessness ...' The base is obscured.

Another drowning in the Soar happened on the evening of Friday, 23 June 1887, when John Twells, eldest son of the then Parish Clerk, perished in his twentieth year. 'In the morning it is green, and groweth up; but in the evening, it is cut down, dried up and withered. Ps.80.v6.'

Edward Goodman, a carrier, met his death by accident, perhaps on having been thrown from his cart, in 1791. 'Of Death's approach thou mayst no warning have, But like him be hurri'd to the Grave.'

A different type of accident took place at the Over Mill, where Thomas Holt was killed by the main wheel on 13 December 1767, at the age of twenty-nine. Little Samuel Stanley, only five years old, sadly met his death on 9 May 1763, by falling from a window. We are left to conjecture what severe accident happened to Daniel Hayes, junior, aged nineteen in 1810, which caused him to change 'this mortal for an immortal state'.

The stone to Alice Brown, wife of James, refers to her sudden death in February 1784 but does not say how it occurred. However, in this instance we find the cause in the Parish Register. She was killed by coals burning in her lodging room and James Brown himself was senseless for several hours, but 'by the diligence of several Gentlemen of the Faculty he perfectly recovered'.

Illnesses

Illnesses give us an insight into conditions of the time - young Samuel Simmonds died of a strain in his 'Anckle' in 1770, aged twelve:

My dearest Parents do not mourn for the afflictions I
have borne
The Surgeons tried on me their skill and often times my
blood did spill,
But all was in vain for none could cure, therefore the
pain I must endure,
Yet I with patience bore the same for Christ my saviour's
Holy Name,
My fellow Schoolboys cast an eye and view these lines as
you pass by,
I lie and sleep within this ground until I hear the
trumpet sound
Then shall I Rise and leave this dust and live for Ever
with the Just.

Obviously his parents tried all they could to find a cure, but we wonder if the boy himself had such noble thoughts as his tombstone might suggest! Since the Grammar School at that time would have been in the churchyard, his fellow pupils would have had ample opportunity to cast an eye on his grave.

Thomas Mitchell finally succumbed to a lingering illness of nineteen years' duration, dying in 1820, aged seventy-eight, while sudden death seems to have been as familiar then as it is today. For instance, Maria, wife of Thomas Pallett, died in 1850, aged forty-five, 'a sudden change she in a moment fell' and Thomas Linaker 'was suddenly called out of time into Eternity' in December 1835, aged seventy-five. As an awful warning to others the text - 'Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Matthew, Chapter 24' appears on his tombstone, and this and similar admonitions are frequently seen.

After 'supporting a long and painful Decline with a Resolution and Fortitude truly Christian' James Mitchel, ironmonger and cutler, died on 2 January 1788 aged twenty-seven, probably having suffered almost all his life. The verse on his tombstone is unusual:

When the sad Bell proclaims a Neighbour's dead,
 Alive to fear, we feel an Instant dread
 Be the mind fix'd on what it most approves,
 Business or Pleasure, soon the shock removes;
 In Life's gay Dream the Providential call,
 The ERRAND-WARNING-FRIEND forgotten all
 The past reviewed when summon'd to our FATE.
 A ray of Wisdom breaks perhaps too late;
 NEGLECT NO MORE, thy better time employ,
 Learn to LIVE, as not to dread to DIE.

More explicitly, George Basford died of a third stroke, aged fifty, in July 1826, while Mary Basford 'after a short but severe affliction, was released from this transitory world on June 16th 1818'. John Randon 'after a few hours illness was suddenly snatch'd from this mutable state of existence' in 1816, aged only twenty-five, while thirteen year old Martha Follows died in 1754 after extreme pain which she bore with patience for eight years. A popular verse indicating fortitude before a happy release is used in memory of William Brewin who died in October 1817, aged fifty-seven:

Afflictions sore long time I bore, physicians were in vain;
 Till Death did seaze as God did please and eas'd me of my pain
 I was with pain so sore oppress'd which wore my strength away;
 I built my hope on that sweet Rest which never will decay.

Little Caroline Aslet died aged four in 1814 due to 'a pale consumption', which 'gave the fatal blow, the stroke was certain but the effect was slow', and William Bragg died aged sixteen in 1807, 'A pale consumption gave the fatal blow, the stroke was certain but th'effect was slow: With wasting pain death saw me long opprest, pitied my sighs and brought me lasting rest.'

Three deaths in the Brookes family of Loughborough Lane in 1811 suggest the possibility of an infectious disease - Benjamin, the father, died aged fifty-six in August, his daughter, Mary Ann, died in September, aged nine, and another daughter, Amy, died in December, aged sixteen.

Great age

Notwithstanding the uncertainty of life in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, some people did live to a great age. Thomas Bennett reached eighty-four years, dying in 1781, and his wife, Ann, died four years later in 1785, aged eighty-one. Thomas Knight lived to be eighty-one - he died in May 1720 - and his daughter, Ann Hutchinson, reached the age of eighty-eight, dying in 1760. Several other eighteenth century couples reached their seventies and eighties including Samuel Farrow, buried in 1787, who was said to be in his ninety-second year, and Ambrose Newberry had achieved ninety-five years when he died in 1806.

Social Circumstances

Occupations

Information can be gleaned about the social status of those buried from the inscriptions and types of monument, especially where actual occupations are given, covering as they do all the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century. On the 150 tombstones, some fifteen per cent of the total, on which fifty-eight different occupations are named, there are frequent mentions of people of note, those of religious calling and military personnel. Surprisingly, of the commoner trades only, for instance, three bakers, three drapers, three tailors, six butchers and four grocers are mentioned. On the other hand, we have eight apothecaries, three of the Cooper family (the earliest, James, dying in 1673), five surgeons, one druggist, as well as three midwives. There are three maltsters, a liquor merchant, a wine merchant, a spirit dealer and three supervisors of excise, in addition to four innkeepers. Metal workers include two blacksmiths, two braziers, two edge tool makers, one ironfounder, three

plumbers, also three ironmongers. One or two unexpected occupations are a mat-maker in the late eighteenth century, a postmaster who died as early as 1751, while a servant who died in 1764 had a stone erected by his master, the Rev Bickham of Loughborough. Despite Loughborough's early prosperity due to the wool trade, only one woolstapler is mentioned, Francis Astill, who died in 1819.

Midwives

Medical care provided by midwives is evinced by the stone to Alice Hickling, who died in 1732, aged sixty-nine, 'midwife' and another to Catherine Foreman, who died in September 1784, aged forty-eight, also 'midwife' and likewise Catherine Foreman's daughter carried on the trade, dying in 1816, aged fifty-six:

Adieu, my husband and my children dear
I've done my duty now lie sleeping here
Thousands! with God's help I've eased of pain
And thro' him hope to meet eternal gain
Who takes my place when life is in a snare
Pray for God's help and use industrious care.

People of note

Looking at the details given on the various tombstones often leads one to enquire further into the histories or achievements of the deceased, especially where they are described as 'gent'. Published sources and Wills can be used to flesh out the bones, as it were.

Anne Lamb, wife of Fitznun, who died in 1744, left her testamentary wishes written out on seven scraps of paper and two witnesses had to swear as to her handwriting. The proving of the Will was prompted by her niece, Mary Watson, no doubt as she was to have the house on Sparrow Hill.

William Armstrong, blacksmith and farrier, who died in December 1795, had land in Woodbrook Close and two houses on lease in the Market Place - one of which was let to the surgeon, Henry Eddowes. His pew in the New Gallery in Loughborough Church was left to his son, William.

William Woty, gent, 1731-1791, is described in the *Dictionary of National Biography* as a 'versifier'. He seems to have migrated from the Isle of Wight via London. He came to Leicestershire through the patronage of Washington, Earl Ferrers, who created for his benefit a rent charge of £150 per annum. One of his publications was a book of poems *The*

Shrubs of Parnassus the subject of many of the verses testifying to his devotion to the pleasure of the table. In a roundel on his tombstone is appropriately a quill pen and books. In those days a wife's property passed to her husband on marriage, so in his Will he calmly left his wife 'all monies remaining in public stocks for her maiden name of Charlotte Thompson, to which I am entitled by right of marriage'. We do not have a stone for Adams Burgess, mercer, who died in 1757, but he had lands in various places in Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, not to mention Gloucestershire, so that we know his widow, Mary, who died in 1785, was left comfortably off, in addition to having been left the mare and gelding.



Fig 1 Detail from William Woty, d.1791

Isaac Movetty, the victualler, died 1783, left two closes in Loughborough called Peggs Furze and Tatmarsh.

Thomas Mowbray, the faithful Magistrate's Clerk, who died in 1840, left property in Baxter Gate to his wife, Letitia, but did not forget his servant, Mary Stevenson, who had a legacy of £100.

The Crossleys must have been a noted malting family in Loughborough. William Crossley, dying in 1712, left land and money to his family and his malting equipment to his sons, William and Thomas. William, the son, unfortunately died the next year, but Thomas lived until 1735, leaving the bulk of his estate to his sister, Mary Crossley. She must have been a person of ability as she carried on the business from the malting office in Baxter Gate. When she died in 1741 she left the business to a farmer, Theophilus Henshaw, but she also left money to carriers, a salter and other people with the idea that they should carry on trading with Mr Henshaw. We get a glimpse of mid-eighteenth century funeral customs from the codicil to her Will, as Mrs Henshaw was left a 'suit of my own mourning', two other ladies were left £5 each to buy mourning, several people got mourning rings worth one guinea, to be enamelled with black, the pall bearers were to have black silk hat bands and black kid gloves and the persons who actually carried her to the grave were to have black kid gloves. It was obvious that specific invitations were issued for the funeral.

William Busby, who died in 1727 aged forty-five, had land in Loughborough, Belton, Boston and even leasehold property in Lambeth and Westminster. His wife was a daughter of Sir Henry Beaumont of Coleorton: their progeny of two sons and five daughters largely pre-deceased them and the final stages of administration were carried out by a surviving daughter, Mrs Ann Keck of Twickenham, some twenty-two years later.

Elizabeth Cradock, widow of William, died in 1821 aged seventy-eight, leaving an estate 'not above £1000', including the family silver, 'the bed compleat in the Plaid room and the Similitude of our blessed Saviour' - these went to daughter Lucy Wilkinson - and also eight stocking frames to be divided between sons Sheldon and Joseph. Of the children of the above Elizabeth (at least nine), Ferdinando, the fourth son, died in 1826 aged fifty-two, and Major Thomas Cradock, the seventh son, died in 1851 aged sixty-six. The second daughter, Elizabeth, died in 1836, aged fifty-nine, leaving personal estate not exceeding £6000 and a wedding gown and petticoat which were her mother's, together with a handsome suit of mourning, to a Mrs Ripton - was she perhaps a companion?

The Will of John Kirkland dated 3 April 1771 was proved by his wife, Anna, on the 20 May 1771 'upon the Holy Evangelist at Loughborough'.

James Aslet, the druggist, left eighty volumes or thereabouts of an Encyclopedia to his son, James White Aslet. He lived in the Market Place and had also built some houses and shops in Baxter Gate. He possessed a share in the Erewash Canal, and his estate was not above £1500. It is interesting that one of his Executors, Francis Cumine of Loughborough, grocer, was a Quaker and he had to make a special declaration that he would carry out the provisions of the Will.

Edward Preston, who died in 1790 aged seventy-seven, had 'lived in wedlock' for fifty-six years and had fifteen children. For those days, his estate was considerable, being 'somewhat less than £1,000', but he left it all to his wife, Elizabeth. This may have been because seven offspring died either as infants or as young children. As for the others, William died at the age of thirty-seven, John at twenty-nine, Peter at thirty-two and Catherine at fifteen. The widow, Elizabeth, soon followed Edward to the grave, dying in June 1790 aged seventy-six.

William Hubbard, ironmonger, who has the earliest surviving stone in the churchyard, died in 1690, leaving behind him a widow, one son and four daughters. It seems strange now to think that an annuity of £4 was considered a sufficient sum for his widow to live on.

Thomas Stanley, who was described as a postmaster, died in 1751, and it was his youngest son, John, who came in for the household goods, 'stockin frame and implements of trade', also 'what post chaises with their appurtenances I die possessed of', but the legacy to the son, Samuel, gives us a little sartorial glimpse of the Testator, with his brown coat, 'black wastcoat and breeches, best hatt', shoes and shirts- not to forget his wig!

James Michell was a cutler and ironmonger, but in 1788 he was able to leave an estate approaching £600.

Henry King, grocer and tallow chandler, died in 1791, and his Will shows the importance of the canals at that period as he left 'all my undivided seventieth part of a share in the Soar Navigation', and all his personal estate was between £600 and £1000.

The tombstone to Henry Dodson, who died in 1720, did not state he was an innkeeper and he did not leave a Will. However, his wife, Anne, set about the administration and drew up an Inventory showing a value of £71.7s.6d. His house seems to have had seven rooms plus the brewhouse and

cellar in which were three hogsheads of ale and empty vessels worth £6. The Inventory shows the semi-agricultural style of life most people lived in those days for even the innkeeper had three cows, one heifer, fourteen sheep, one gelding and four pigs.

William Palmer, a former surgeon in the Coldstream Guards who died in 1852, left an estate not over £200 and completed his Will with an X. No doubt this denotes serious illness rather than not being able to write, as the Will was made on 12 July and he died on 21 July. The Palmers seem to have been a family of surgeons in the town.

James Cooper, an apothecary, died in 1673 and his name is recorded on the stone of his son, John. He was too near death to have a written Will, so it had to be done by word of mouth, expressing his wishes to John.

Joseph Vickers, another surgeon of Loughborough, died in 1820 and seems to have fared well as his estate was about £4000. On the other hand, he had the sorrow of five sons and one daughter dying in his lifetime. He still had five children living when he died and one instruction in his Will was that the interest on £400 was to go to his son Frederick weekly for life - was he the profligate son?

In the fourth Register of All Saints Parish Church is written out at length the faculty granted to Henry Whatton, an attorney, in 1788 to have a vault built within the Vestry Room of the Parish Church, towards the south-east corner, ten feet clear in length, six feet eight inches in breadth and eight feet deep, 'for the interment of him and his family and such others as he shall consent or permit,' paying the same as for having an ordinary burial inside the church, and it was also granted that his infant son, William, now interred in the church, should be placed in the vault. He could also erect monuments or lay down tombstones in the Vestry Room.

A Memorandum added that William, the third son, and Robert, the fourth son, were both buried in the south-east corner of the vault at a depth of seven feet. Henry himself was buried on 4 August 1815 in the north-east corner, seven feet deep. His tombstone, with a Coat of Arms saying, 'In this Vault are interred the Remains ...', has now been moved outside into the churchyard. Henry Whatton is thought to have lived at Moat Farm on the outskirts of Loughborough and it seems that he married a child bride. He married an Elizabeth Watkinson, who was the daughter and heiress of

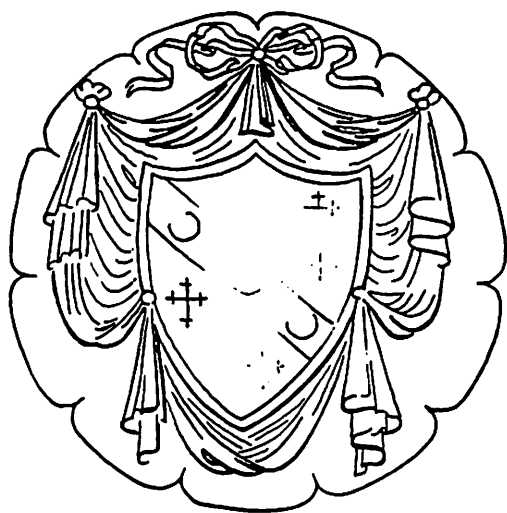


Fig 2 Detail from Henry Whatton, d.1815

John Watkinson, by his second wife, Elizabeth. Sadly, the second wife was buried on 30 November 1765, the day of baptism of her daughter. Credence is given to this fact as Henry and Elizabeth were married at Gretna Green on 31 July 1779 when Elizabeth would have been fourteen and the fact of their marriage is recorded in Loughborough Parish Register. There must have been something rather special about the Whattons to have these matters recorded in the Parish Register - an honour accorded to no-one else. According to Nichols, the family had a long lineage, Henry himself was born in Mansfield. His fifth son, William Robert, 1790 to 1835, was a surgeon in Manchester and a noted antiquary.

The limestone chest tomb standing near the big lime tree is to members of the Cartwright and Warner families, noted hosiery manufacturers of this town. John Cartwright JP, who died a bachelor in 1861 aged sixty-eight, left an estate approaching £140,000 - he did remember to leave the principal mender, Elizabeth Hannah Bakewell, £52 a year for

life. He also left mining shares in 'Cooks Kitchen', 'Carn Brae' and 'Tincroft' - it would be interesting to know where these mines were and what was mined there.

Military gentlemen whose mortal remains lie in Loughborough All Saints churchyard include John Ripcke, a trumpeter in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards Blue for fifty years ten months (he joined the Army in 1744). A German by birth, born in Hanover, he was '5'10" tall, hair light, eyes grey and complexion fair'. He died on 16 April 1795 aged sixty-eight. The Household Cavalry Museum in Windsor tells us that it was normal in those days for German musicians to be enlisted as trumpeters for band duties in many regiments of the British Army. On their return from the Continent in 1763, the Royal Horse Guards served for forty years in the Midlands. Another long-serving member was Jonas Sugden, twenty-three years Corporal in the Royal Horse Guards Blue, and nearly eighteen years Sergeant in the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry. He died 'much lamented by his brother soldiers' in 1818 aged sixty-four. He must have presented a fine figure, being '6'1" tall, hair light, eyes grey, complexion fair', and was by trade a woolcomber. Simon Pepper, late a captain in the Second Regiment of Dragoon Guards, and third son of Simon Pepper of Lisenisskey in the County of Tipperary, Ireland, died in Loughborough on Saturday, 20 February 1813, aged thirty-two. William Palmer, who died in 1852, had been a surgeon in the Coldstream Guards, while John Winslow Ward had been a captain in the Worcester Militia; he died in 1828.

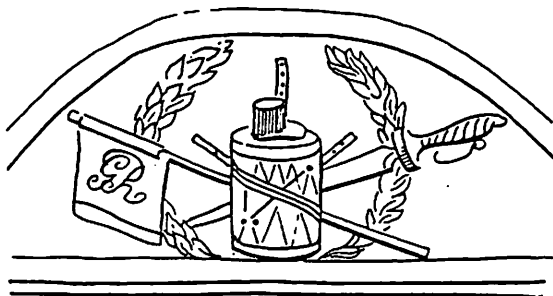


Fig 3 Detail from William Tanswell, d.1811

A memorial inscription to Lt. William Harley of the Fiftieth Regiment of Foot appears on his parents' stone. He died in Jamaica in 1819 when only twenty-six - perhaps from some tropical disease?

Two stones are embellished with military carvings, two firearms and a sword on that in memory of Robert Hayes who died in 1807 aged eighteen, and a drum, pennant, plumed hat and arms on that to William Tanswell who died in his seventeenth year in 1811. There is nothing else to indicate whether or not they had military careers.

Rectors and other religious

One or two stones to Rectors of All Saints Parish stand in the churchyard, and there is the strange admonition on that to the Revd Francis Wilcox BD, who died in 1798 aged fifty-six, which states, 'Let no one be buried in the Church'. The Revd Richard Hardy, who died in 1826, has a Latin inscription which reads, 'Hic Sepultus RICHARDUS HARDY, S.T.D. HUIUS ecclesia olim Rector, Mortem obit. die VI Maii Anno Domini MDCCCXXVI Aetatis Suae LXVII.' Members of other denominations are also buried in this churchyard, presumably because there was nowhere else for them to lie. One such, the Rev Abraham Broadley, buried in 1790, was 'for 20 years Minister of the Presbyterian congregation in this town'. Another was William Wilcocks, upwards of thirty years a local Wesleyan preacher and schoolmaster. He died in 1842 aged fifty-nine. 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.'

It is quite possible that the stone to Francis Clifton of Woodthorpe, Esquire, who died in 1731 aged thirty-two, refers to a Catholic burial. In the Leicestershire Archive Office there is a 'Return of a Papist Estate' dated 1722, which reads, 'To the Clerk of the Peace of the County of Leicester, I FRANCIS CLIFTON of Shepshed, gent, in pursuance of and in obedience to a late Act of Parliament entituled an Act to oblige Papists to Register their names and real Estates Do by this writing under my hand desire you to Register my name and Estate ... as follows:- One messuage or tenement situate in Woodthorpe and also all those several closes or grounds enclosed with the appurtenances in Woodthorpe aforesaid (let at £50 per year) ... all of which messuages and closes I am tenant in fee Tayle.' The stone also commemorates a Margaret Smith who died in 1727 (said in the Parish Register to be of Woodthorpe) and the son of Francis Clifton, another Francis, who died in 1731 aged nine years. At the foot of the stone appears 'Requiescat in pace', a common inscription on Catholic tombstones.

The Rev James Whitaker CC (Catholic Clergyman) Minister of the Gospel, departed this life in 1836, aged fifty-seven. His stone reads, 'Chosen of God: and call'd to preach, the selfsame truths his Lord did teach; He held that office twenty years while trav'ling through this vale of tears, but now his earthly toils are o'er, he's gone where sorrows are no more'.

Places

The majority of burials, as one would expect, are of Loughborough townsfolk, but separate mention is made of Woodthorpe, Knight-thorpe, Loughborough Lane and Loughborough Parks - areas now swallowed up by the town. Other places mentioned on the tombstones are fairly local such as Burton Bandalls, Cossington, Costock, East Leake, Hathern, Kegworth, Mountsorrel and Long Whetton. More distant parts of England also feature, for example in 1736 was buried Johanna Hawley, widow of Henry Hawley, late Rector of Alter in Somerset, while George Wilson, an apprentice from Burley in Rutland, sadly died in Loughborough in 1826 when only seventeen years.

Seven stones mention a Leicester connection, one being Ruth Staveley, died 1842, widow of Christopher Staveley, Architect of Leicester. Six stones refer to London - in fact Mary Bonser, who died in 1807 aged seventy-two, is said to be buried in the Methodist Burial Ground, City Road, London. The northern cities of Manchester and Leeds are also mentioned as well as several places in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. More exotic references to Calcutta, Fort Augusta in Jamaica, Guelph in Canada West, Lausanne in Switzerland and Lisenisskey in Co Tipperary are to be found. Uniquely, William Harley died at the Nore on passage from Quebec to London on 21 December 1843 aged thirty years. His parents were William and Ursula Harley of Loughborough.

Attitudes

The loss of a wife or husband appears to have given rise to sincere tributes, such as the one to Sarah Cope, who died in 1854 aged thirty-four.

Beneath this stone in solemn rest
Of loving wives and tender mothers lies the best
Whose pain and suffering unto herself was kept
For fear of causing pain or grief within another's breast.

Elizabeth, the wife of Richard Ackeley, was referred to as a 'virtuous loving wife, my soul's indearing friend' when she died in 1730 aged thirty. The stone in memory of Ann, wife of Joseph Fry, was inscribed in 1792 'by her surviving husband in grateful remembrance of her Virtues as a Wife and a Mother'.

Robert Cumberland, who died in 1784 aged fifty-five, was praised as a husband and father:

A loving Husband and a Friend sincere,
A tender Father lieth bury'd here;
The Path of Life he with Industry trod,
An honest man, the noblest Work of God.

The stone in memory of James Palfreyman who died in 1853 aged forty-four reads:

To him so mourn'd in death, so lov'd in life
His faithful partner and his widow'd wife,
With tears inscribes this monumental stone
That marks his ashes to receive her own.

Thomas Tyler who died in 1854 aged forty-three is remembered thus:

Beneath reposes all that Heaven could lend
The best of Husbands Fathers and the friend
In sickness patient and in Death resign'd
He left the world a pattern for mankind
Go then blessed soul partake the joys of Heav'n
A just reward for joys thyself hast giv'n.

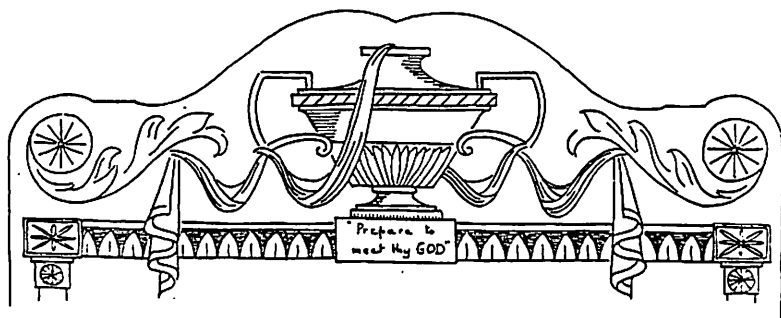


Fig 4 Detail from William Benson, d.1828

Texts

As one would expect, many stones carry a text either as a heading or sometimes in place of a verse. Thomas Bennett's stone (1781) has at the top:

Which hope we have as an anchor of the Soul both sure
and steadfast. Hebrews VI v.19

The stone to Sarah Boss (1829) has, from Job 29: 'When the ear heard me then it Blessed me: and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless and him that had none to help him.'

Thomas Linaker who was 'suddenly called out of time into Eternity' in 1835, has the popular text: 'Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as we think not the Son of man cometh. Matthew, Chapter 24'; and in similar vein, 'Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight. Mark, Chapter 13, Verse 35', appears on the stone to Charles Barrowdale, 1849.

A cartouche with the quotation 'Be thou faithful unto Death and I will give thee a Crown of Life' surmounts the tombstone of William Henry Green, who died in 1812. Thomas Webster, a child of five who died in 1738, has the appropriate text: 'Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of God'. Two infants of only a few weeks died in 1817 and 1818, children of Henry Hind, and their text reads: 'The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the Name of the Lord. Job, Chapter 1, Verse 21'.

Job is again quoted for Richard Ball, who died in 1848: 'For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold and not another. Job, 19th Chapter, 25th, 26th and 27th verses.' Mistress Warner, who 'expired in 1829', has the quotation, 'We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment; in the twinkling of an eye ...' but the remainder is now buried too deeply to be read.

Sentiments are also expressed as headings, sometimes in a roundel, such things as 'Mortality', 'Memento Mori', 'Blessed are the Dead which die in the Lord', 'In hope of a Joyful Resurrection' and 'I know that my Redeemer liveth' being very popular, and an unusually long one is, 'The dead

were judged out of those things which are written in the books according to their Works.'

The surgeon Henry Eddowes who died in 1827 had a Latin tag, 'Mors janua Vitae' in keeping with his profession. One wonders why Mary Pye, widow, 1769, merited a stone carved in Latin: 'Supremum maenus filius maerens posuit', which may be translated as: 'A sorrowing son performs this last service'.

Tombstones as Art

As previously mentioned, the majority of the tombstones are of our local Swithland slate, more than three-quarters of the total. According to Nichols, in 1804 the slate pits on the edge of Charnwood Forest, 'in grand and romantic scenery', were very deep and employed a great number of hands. The slate was mainly used for roofs, chimney pieces, milestones, slabs for curriers to dress skins (which could measure 9ft by 4ft) and gravestones, being drilled and blasted from an almost seamless rock. The blocks were cleft into slabs and slates, the labourers being paid up to 2s.6d per day in summer and 2s per day in winter. Hand sawing where necessary was performed at 10d per foot. Gravestones were sold at 20d per foot up to 20 inches wide and the price then rose until a stone three feet wide and above was 2s.9d per foot. These particulars were given to Nicols by the Rev Aulay Macauley.

Carvers' names appear from about the middle of the eighteenth century, engraved at the foot of the stones. It is possible to trace the slowly changing styles of decoration over some 150 years, from the simple seventeenth century script, through early eighteenth-century copper plate accompanied by symbols of mortality, to late eighteenth century examples of the engravers' art with delicate borders of twining flowers. The turn of the century mixture of capital and copper-plated lettering with Greek motifs was followed later in the nineteenth century by Gothic Revival designs, and deeply carved allegorical figures representing, for example, Faith and Hope. The changing style of urns, so frequently used as a central feature above the inscription, in itself offers quite a field of study. Since the dates of burial are not necessarily those of the stone, and since earlier motifs continued to be used, one has to be content with a broad view of the historical development of the art of the tombstones. In all, the names of thirty-three carvers have been recorded in All Saints churchyard and the tombstones themselves are of infinite sizes and shapes.

The early example of 1690 to William Hubbard, ironmonger, has no decoration other than the beautiful script, the uneven letters of which are nevertheless arranged to produce a sensitive and balanced arrangement. It is considerably eroded, but a rare treasure for Loughborough. We do not know the carver.

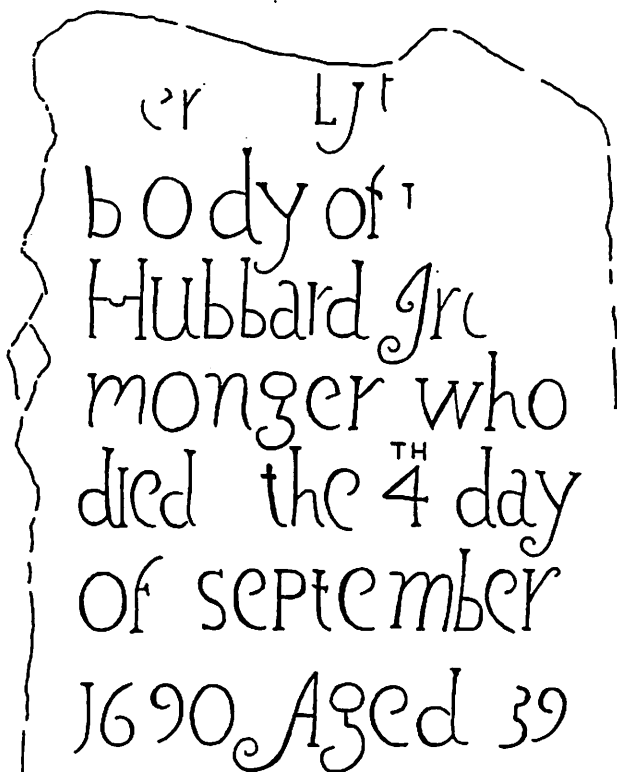


Fig 5 Complete stone of William Hubbard, d.1690

Among early stone carvers who are known to us is Nicholas Webster, who flourished from 1734 to 1779, and who seems to have been the son of Joseph Webster, mason and Parish Clerk. Nicholas, baptised in 1716 and buried on 20 June 1782, was himself Parish Clerk for forty-five years. Surprisingly, although there are several stones to members

of the Webster family, no stone to Nicholas Webster is found. Of the thirteen stones attributable to Webster it is interesting to note the differing styles of signature, eg "Nicholas Webster Engraver, N Webster sculptor, N Webster Fecit". This variation is quite typical of most stone carvers. The stone to Samuel Foster, who died in 1775, by Webster, Engraver has a delightful winged hourglass at the base, engraved in a continuous line in the characteristic thick and thin 'copperplate' style.



Fig 6 Detail from Samuel Foster, d.1775

A similar technique appears on two stones: Dodson, died 1720, and Tugby in the 1730s, as angels' heads with wings, although the carver of these is not known.

The Winfields 'of Wimeswold' were responsible for some seventy stones in Loughborough Parish churchyard and very probably another nineteen. John Winfield (1742-1809) married Ann, the daughter of William Charles, a well-known stone cutter of Wymeswold. Their two sons, William and John, followed in father's footsteps. The Winfields' work spans a period from around the 1780s up to 1842 according to headstones, but outstanding work occurs in the late eighteenth century, for example the stone to John Bowley who died in 1791.

The Hind family of Swithland had been associated with the industry for most of the eighteenth century and Robert Hind, 'well known for his ingenious devices on these stone slates', rented and quarried land in Charnwood. The Hind name appears on some twenty-eight headstones at Loughborough, covering a period from 1761-1833. Indeed, work by the Hinds is to be found widely distributed in Leicestershire. That to William Blunt (died 1797) has typically eighteenth century ribbons and garlands but is also an early sample of the figure of Hope with her raised finger and the admonition: 'Glory is prepared for the Righteous'.

An interesting late eighteenth century stone to Thomas Farmer who died in 1794 is headed by a skull on which, in case we should miss the point, is engraved 'Mortality'. Behind are crossed bones linked to the overall design by thin swags of drapery. Other fine late eighteenth century work must include the stone to William Robinson, matmaker (died 1779) and his wife, Elizabeth (died 1798), with a beautifully engraved inscription but no decoration other than a simple line to enclose the whole, and that to Mary Nash, who died in 1791 aged sixteen years, which is a shaped headstone with a lightly incised border of garlands and ribbons. The carvers are unknown.

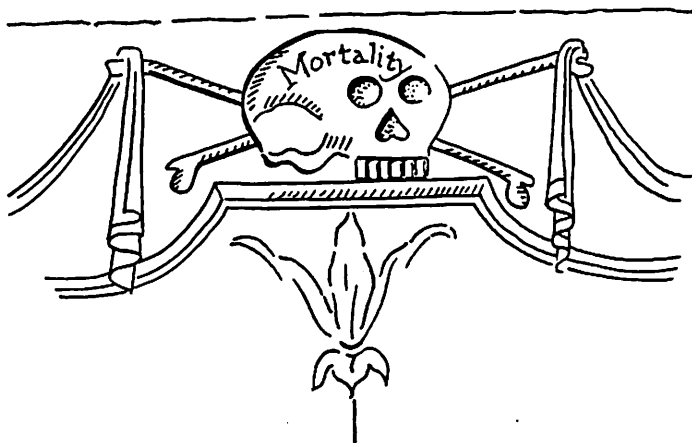


Fig 7 Detail from Thomas Farmer, d.1794

Peck is another well-known name with a prolific seventy stones. John Peck, buried at Loughborough in December 1807, was the father of Samuel Peck, baptised 9 October 1785 and buried 1815. By 1783 at the birth of his fourth son, Robert, John was described as a victualler, yet in his Will, proved 1808, he called himself a yeoman, leaving real property and stock on the farm to his wife, Sarah, nee Adams; his personal estate did not amount to £100. Samuel Peck did describe himself in his Will as a stonemason but he had other interests, owning in addition to his own dwelling house, 'a house in the Market Place which was known by the sign of The Angel and leased to Richard Andrews'; the Angel Yard is still there! One wonders if Samuel considered the stone carving as rather a minor occupation. The Swithland slate stone to William (died 1802), the infant son of John and Ann Bates and engraved by J Peck, has the graceful lettering in a large oval cartouche surmounted by an urn and generous swags, while that to Mary, wife of Thomas Barratt (died 1806) is of Welsh slate.

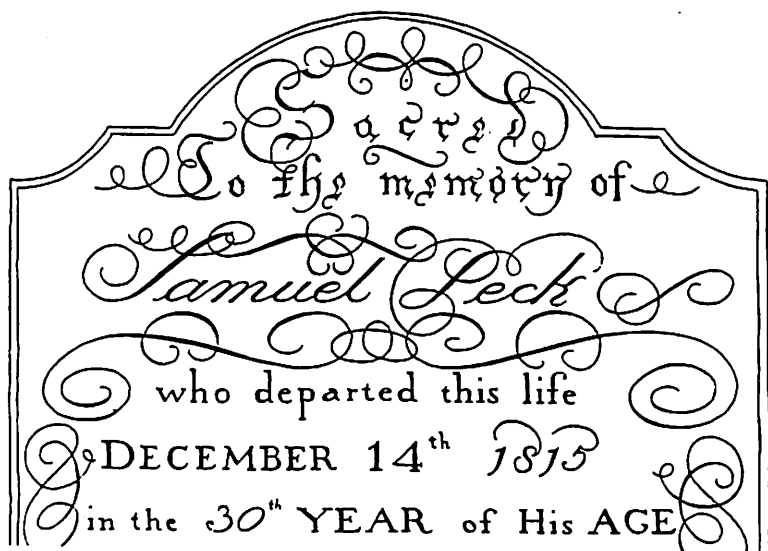


Fig 8 Part of the stone of Samuel Peck, d.1814

Samuel Peck's stone continued the typical swirling decoration of the 'copper plate' era, but we cannot say who was the carver.

Benjamin Pollard of Quorn and Swithland, who flourished from 1777 to 1826, is also well represented. Peter Onion, who died in 1797 aged eighty-eight, has a Swithland slate stone engraved 'Pollard Carver Quorn'. The stone to little John Harley, who died in 1801 aged three, has an urn with delicate pendulous branches (of weeping willow?) surmounted by two angels' heads and 'IHS' in a radiance, while the later stone to William Barnsdall, who died in 1810, has an urn of much heavier shape altogether, with drapery.

The Hull family seems to have originated in Leicester. Samuel (flourished 1818-1860) worked with a partner Pollard (perhaps related to the Ben Pollard mentioned earlier) and they were responsible for St George's Church, Leicester, and the obelisk on Naseby Field, advertising themselves as 'statuaries and masons'. We have two stones of Hull and Pollard (1826-42). There are thirty-eight stones signed 'Hull' and two signed 'WH Hull' (1849-57). William Henry Hull advertised as a stone and marble mason of Leicester Road, Loughborough, in 1854.

Henry Hack, who flourished between 1820 and 1849, signed thirteen stones, six Welsh and seven Swithland. There cannot have been a clear break between the use of these two slates. No doubt masons used up what was in the yard - or did one choose one's slate as one chose the wood for the coffin? Henry Hack died in Loughborough in June 1880 and was then described as a painter.

The arms of Henry Whatton, Esquire (died 1815), though very worn are still visible on his stone. The shield is framed by delicate draperies with ribbons above, the whole enclosed in a scalloped circle - a very nice design - the carver unfortunately is not known.

Welsh slate, a darker purply blue than the Swithland, came into general use in the nineteenth century, transported by canal. Though easier to cleave and to carve than the Swithland slate, the artistry of the eighteenth century gave way to a more mechanical style of lettering and design.

Hodkinson and Fisher were working in the early nineteenth century and the Fisher name occurs on sixty-three stones. In the 1830s, W Fisher was a painter and engraver of Churchgate, Loughborough. Hodkinson and Fisher's names

appear on the tombstone to Robert Hayes (died 1807) and already mentioned in a military connection. The musket, pistol and sabre are carved in excellent detail, while the lettering and borders continue the fine eighteenth century tradition of engraving. Thomas Cumberland (died 1836) has an accurately detailed urn on a plinth, with a scythe and an anchor as supporters. A later Fisher stone, to Thomas Denning, Esquire (died 1846), has a precise coat of arms enclosed within Gothic Revival tracery with elegant cusps. These three are of Welsh slate.

Mortin of Loughborough, who flourished from 1809 to 1850, is responsible for twenty-one stones, all on Swithland slate.

The large double stone to Thomas Cresswell, hatter (died 1832), typifies the mixture of styles prevalent in the early nineteenth century. The scalloped oval top, 'egg and dart' borders, the lingering copperplate design of the name and heading and varied capital lettering elsewhere are found on many stones. This one is by Rudkin.

John Dakin's stone, dated 1837, of Welsh slate, was engraved by T Kiddey of Sandiacre, and has a debased urn design surmounted by what may be a pineapple, while the borders have vines bearing strangely stiff bunches of grapes.

A far more controlled design by W Carrington is used for William Bowker Throsby, the surgeon (died 1847). This is a square headed stone of Welsh slate carved with capital letters within a neat Gothic arch, the spandrels solidly filled with acanthus leaves.

The Carrington family - John flourished from 1828 to 1835 and William from 1825 to 1849 - were of Baxter Gate, Loughborough, and of Leicester.

The nineteenth century carvers also gave us several examples depicting an oval, round or arched frame containing an allegorical figure in low relief, typically a draped female form leaning on a plinth or tomb. Frances Henshaw (died 1819) has a stone showing two figures, one of whom is supported by an extremely stout anchor (Hope), while the other in voluminous draperies perhaps represents the Angel of Death. This was carved by Bramley.

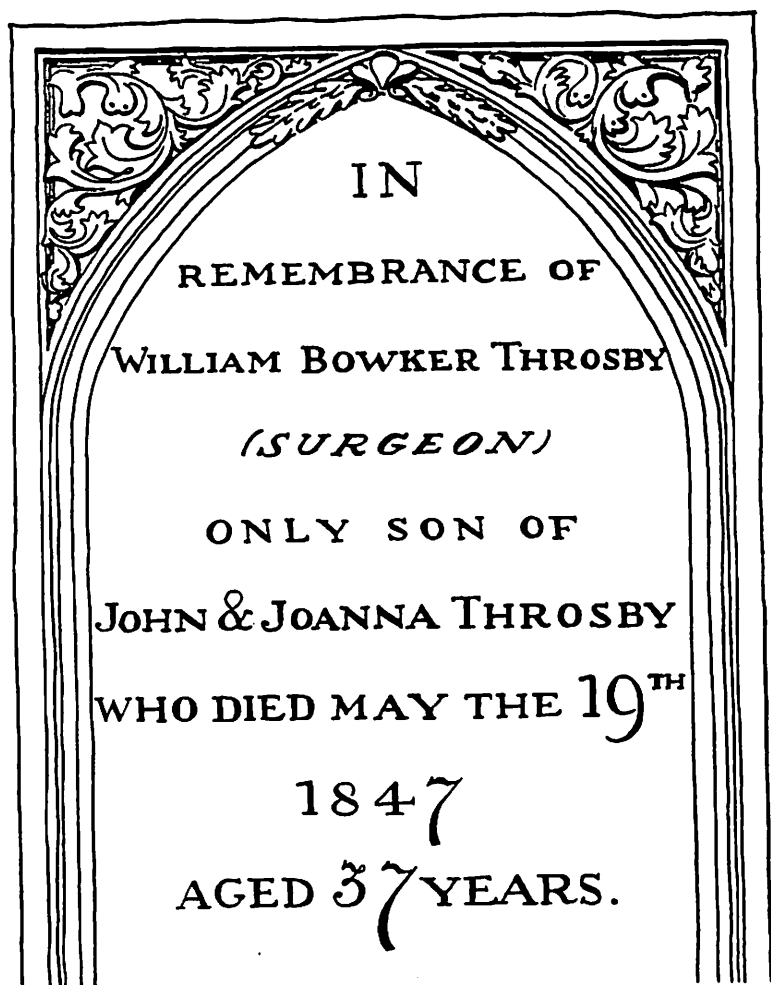


Fig 9 Complete stone of William Throsby, d.1847

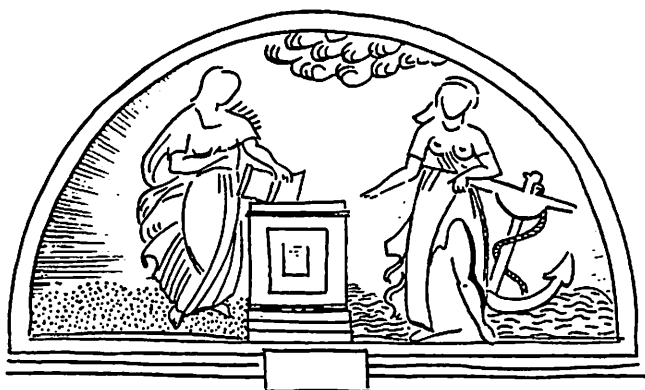


Fig 10 Detail from Francis Henshaw, d.1819

The Unusual

Amongst the many hundred of interesting and attractive stones, there are some which fascinate by their unusual character. Two carvers are named on the stone to Thomas and Elizabeth Flavel. Hind carved the right hand side to the wife who died in 1798, while the left side to the husband was carved by Frogett about 1822. This is rare; perhaps only another two such examples exist in All Saints churchyard. Elizabeth Webster, buried in 1751, has an unusual rhyming inscription:

Elizabeth Webster Slumbers here Who lived on earth near
 sixteen year
 November the Second on All Souls Day her Soul forsook its
 House of Clay
 Through the pure aether it is gone in one thousand 7
 hundred
 Fifty one.

'Let whoever is humble desire to become an inhabitant of heaven' is the translation of the Latin quotation on the stone to Ferdinando Browne and Dorothy, his wife. It reads: 'Esto Humilis quisquis fieri cupis Imcola Coeli'.

A more obscure message occurs on William and Elizabeth Dowthwaite's stone which, as far as can be judged, reads as follows: 'Ortoe whnch d?Ntd t?u yiou Oht'. However, we can quite clearly read what William had to say of his Elizabeth: 'She was what I wish'd her to be'.

The day of the week on which Simon Pepper died was a Saturday - he has already been referred to as a military man, buried in 1813. Only one other stone gives the day, usually the date alone is given.

William Henson outlived three wives, as we learn from the stone to his third wife, Ann, who died in 1832. Joseph Twells and his wife, Hannah, are recorded as being buried in the same grave and on the same day, having died within two days of each other in April 1831.

The stone to Richard Wells not only tells the date of death (1802) but also the date of baptism on 2 November 1741. This is one of several stones where mistakes were made in the carving which had to be rectified. There are a few instances where the date of birth is given. John Winfield is said to have died on the eighth day of October 1753 N.S. - meaning 'new style' and referring to the alteration of the calendar in 1752. On the stone to Mary Hallam, wife of William who died in 1800, the verse was not finished. It merely says, 'Farewel vain world'. The stone to Robert Knight (died 1801) is a good example of practice carving on the part which would be buried in the earth. Peck is the signature on this slate.

Conclusion

The monumental inscriptions give a unique record of former inhabitants of the town, complementing and amplifying the Parish Registers and other sources, and providing a mine of information for the local or family historian. The headstones themselves give us a tangible link with the art and sentiments of past centuries, as well as providing a memorial to those buried there and to the craftsmen who made them. Long may they survive.

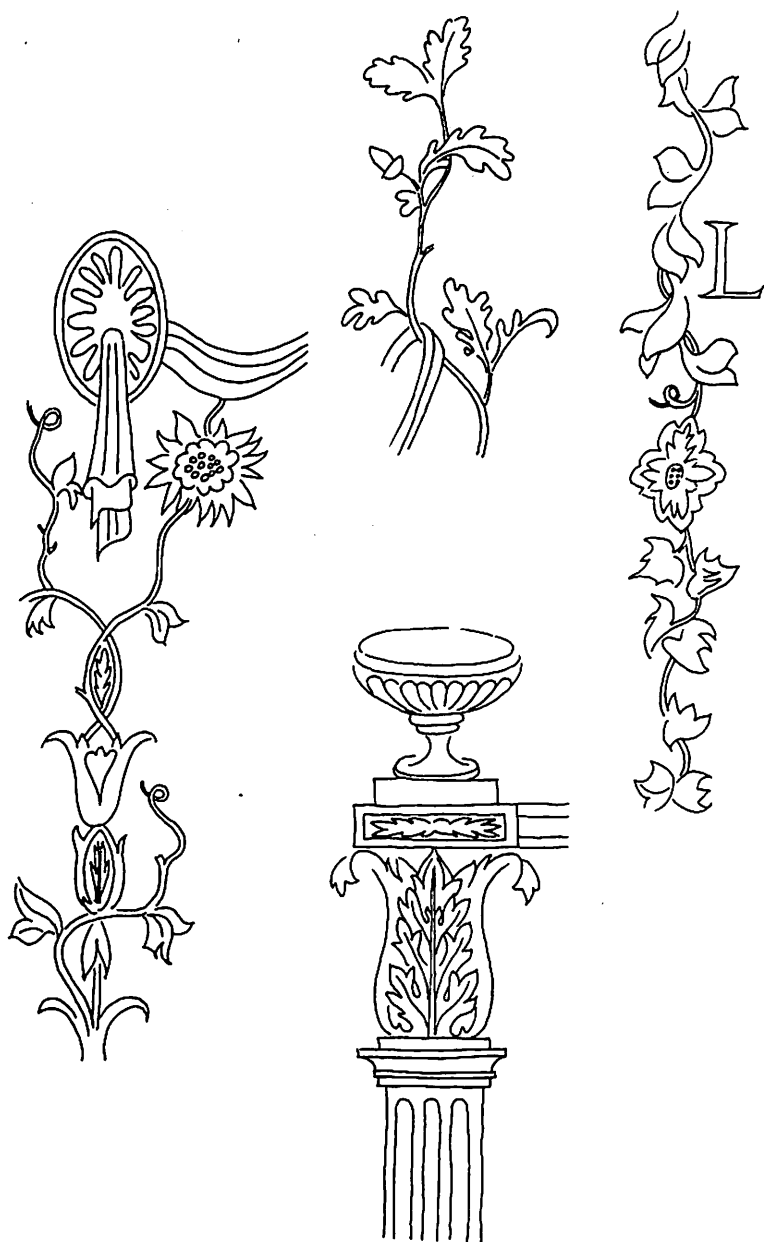


FIG. 11.
FURTHER EXAMPLES
OF THE CARVERS
ART.