
Ancient Tomb with Effigies.—S. Leonard's Church,
Flamstead.

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This altar-tomb, the oldest monument in the Church, is of considerable interest. Weever tells us that in his time there were three such tombs—"Here in this Church are three wondrous ancient monuments, whose inscriptions are quite perist, supposed by the inhabitants to be for certain noblemen, lords of this Manor." It has been pointed out by Mr. Clarkson that the tomb has been taken off its original base, and now rests on a block of rough masonry. This is evidence of its having been removed; and Mr. Cussans suggests, that it was brought from the chapel in the South aisle, when the Saunders monument was erected there. It is highly probable that it once rested in a chantry chapel. There was a chantry within the church, the endowment of which was valued in Edward VI's reign at £6 3 4, (see a document quoted by Mr. Cussans). We have now to examine the monument. The recumbent full-length effigies (about life-size) are those of a Civilian and his



lady. They have suffered from mutilation, but we see they have been well-sculptured. Over the heads is a fine architectural canopy, which almost hides the cushions on which the heads repose. The feet of the figures rest on two dogs. The man is enveloped in a loose mantle flowing down to the feet, having wide open sleeves. On the wrist of the left hand, which is raised to the breast, appears the tight-fitting sleeve of the tunic. The right hand (now broken off) must have grasped the right hand of the wife, which is held out. The hood is arranged round the throat, and falls over the left shoulder. A lappet depends from it in front. The long hair is worn in somewhat formal curls. The beard is short and rather pointed. The style of the hair suits Richard II's reign, and the wide sleeve of the mantle is rather earlier than the close of that reign. In brasses dated about 1400, the full sleeves generally appear gathered into small cuffs at the wrist. In the costume of the lady the drapery is well designed. A loose sleeveless mantle depends from the shoulders, and its folds are gathered up under the right arm. It seems to be confined by a cordon over the chest, and displays in front a plain kirtle. A girdle encircles the waist, and appears to be fastened in a knot, the end hanging down in front. The close-fitting sleeve of the tunic or kirtle is shown, also a tight cuff on the wrist of the arm which is extended to the husband. The most characteristic part of the costume is the coiffure. This consists of a veil or coverchief, and a wimple folded under the chin. A small caul of hair (confined by a net) appears on each side of the forehead. From the shape of the coiffure at the top of the head, and the appearance of the wimple I should suppose the date to be some ten or fifteen years earlier than the close of the fourteenth century. We may infer that the tomb was erected some time before 1397; in that year, Thomas de Beauchamp, Junior, Earl of Warwick, and lord of this manor, was deprived of his estates by King Richard II. [He was afterwards reinstated by Henry IV, and died in 1402].

The monument clearly commemorates a person of importance, and the most important lay personage in Flamstead, next to the lord of the manor, I conceive would be his Seneschal or Steward, who probably

resided at the Bury, and held the manorial courts there. The person represented is likely to have been the steward who managed the controversy with Prior John Woderove concerning the manorial rights on Redbourn Heath; the compact of settlement having been made in 1383, as we have heard. With regard to the chantry, we may infer that it was founded some time before 1412. In that year, (as recorded in the S. Albans Book of Benefactors, fol. 138), "John Bullock, priest of Flamstede, died." I take the term *priest* (*sacerdos*) here to mean *chantry-priest*, because the Incumbent, or officiating priest of the church, is designated in the same document as "Chaplain of the Chapel of Flamstede." We find the entry—(fol. 138) "Henry de Benyngton, Chaplain of the Chapel of Flamstede, was admitted to the Fraternity of S. Alban, A.D. 1410." And again, (about the date 1345), Roger, Chaplain of the Chapel of the Earl of Warwick at Flamstede, contributed VI.s. and VIII.d. to the work of the cloister," (fol. 107). Probably John Oudeby, who died in 1414, was Rector of the church, when the monument was put up. There was also a Vicar, the Vicarage having existed from 1224. The Vicar may possibly have been also a Chaplain to the Earl. But however this may be, the expression, "the chapel of the Earl of Warwick at Flamstede" must certainly designate the parish church, of which the Earl was patron. The *chaplain*, then, appears to be the Incumbent and the *priest*, the chantry priest. The connection of this monument with the chantry is, of course, uncertain.

In the absence of inscription or heraldry it may not be possible to ascertain the name of the person commemorated, but it is worth while to note, as affording a possible clue, the connection of the family of Ferrars (or Ferrers) with Flamstead. Thomas de Beauchamp's Countess was Margaret de Ferrars. The name of her father, William de Ferrars, lord of Groby, was enrolled in the Obituary record of S. Alban's Abbey, at her request in 1382, (Lib. Ben. fol. 132). Some of her kindred were resident in S. Albans about the year 1400, or earlier; for the cognizance of Ferrars, a *horse-shoe*, is found in a stained glass window in S. Peter's church, the style of the glass being of about that date—the border of horse-shoes there denoting that the donor was a Ferrars. From an

entry in the *Liber Benefactorum*, (fol. 116), we learn that John Ferrers, esquire, of S. Albans, had been Seneschal to Henry de Beauchamp, Duke of Warwick, (grandson of Thomas de Beauchamp), who died in 1445.

* This John Ferrers married a daughter of Adrian Brekespere, of Langley, and possessed land in the parish of S. Peter, S. Albans. In 1455 he was appointed by Abbot John Wheathampstead his attorney in a certain law suit. (Regist. I. 207). As Seneschal he doubtless managed the manor of Flamstead for the Duke. We find other members of the family residing in S. Albans or the neighbourhood up to the middle of the sixteenth century.

In 1475, Ralph Ferrers, *Doctor of Laws*, was appointed Warden of the Hospital of S. Julian, S. Albans—(Regist. II. 120). In 1493, Thomas Ferrers, esquire, was Bailiff of the town of S. Albans: he married a daughter of William Westby, Hundreder of the Liberty, a person of considerable importance. (Lib. Ben. fol. 79). Another John Ferrers, esquire, was Bailiff of the Liberty some time between 1494 and 1505: he was admitted to the Fraternity of the Monastery at the petition of John Benestede, Prior of Tynemouth, brother of his wife Katherine, (fol. 117). In 1549 the manor of Flamstead, (which had come to the crown), was granted by Edward VI. to George Ferrers, of Markyate, son of Thomas Ferrers of S. Albans. He was buried in this church, 11th January, 1578. His son, Julius Ferrers, who succeeded to the manor, was also buried here, (30 Dec. 1596).—[see Cussans, vol. II, Hund. of Hertford, p. 143].

The name of Thomas de Beauchamp's Steward, is not to be found in the S. Alban's documents, but it is by no means improbable that he was a Ferrers, obtaining the appointment through the influence of the Countess of Warwick, (Margaret de Ferrers), his kinswoman. Possibly he may be the person who gave the glass in S. Peter's church.

For the etching of Flamstead church, which illustrates these papers, the Society is indebted to Mrs. H. Hine of S. Albans, who has most liberally presented the plate.

* The brass of a civilian on the floor of the chancel may perhaps commemorate this John Ferrers. The wife has the horned head-dress—date c. 1460.