

THE SCOTT MONUMENTS IN BRABOURNE
CHURCH.

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THE Scotts of Brabourne and Scot's Hall, Smeeth, trace their descent from David le Scot, King of Scotland. That king had a grandson, named David, whose grand-daughter, Devorgilda,* was the ultimate heiress of her uncle, John le Scot, Earl of Huntingdon

* Devorgilda's sister, Christiana, married William de Fortibus, Earl of Albemarle, to whose mother's third husband, Baldwin de Betun, Earl of Albemarle, King John gave the manor of Brabourne, which had been forfeited by Henry de Essex. The thrice married lady was a kinswoman of this Henry de Essex. Baldwin de Betun's daughter, Alice, brought the manor in dower to her husband W^m Marischall, Earl of Pembroke, through whose sister Joan it came ultimately to her husband Warenne de Monchensie. By their son the manor was forfeited, but the king, Henry III., bestowed it upon their daughter Joan, who had married William de Valence, the king's half brother. Upon her death, in 1307, the manor went first to her son Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke; then to her daughter Isabel, wife of John de Hastings, Baron of Bergavenny; afterwards to another daughter, named Joan, who was the wife of John Comyn, the Red, of Badenoch. Their daughter, Joan Comyn, married David Strathbolgie, Earl of Athol, whose grandson, the last Earl of Athol, had no male heir. Of the last Earl's wife a monumental brass remains still in Ashford Church. His daughter Philippa brought the manor in dower to John Halsham of West Grinstead, and their great grand-daughter, Sibella Lewknor, marrying Sir William Scott, brought the manor of Brabourne into the Scott family.

and Chester, and Lord of Strathbolgie. This lady married John de Baliol, who, in conjunction with her, founded Baliol College at Oxford. He died in 1269, but she survived until 1288, when his heart was interred with her at the Abbey of Dulcecor, which she had founded in memory of him. This Countess Devorgilda had six sons. Her second son, Hugh Baliol, died in 1271, having married Anne or Agnes, daughter of William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, by Joan de Monchensie, owner of Brabourne manor. Her fourth son, John Baliol, was King of Scotland, and Baron Baliol in England; he died in exile A.D. 1315. Her fifth son, Alexander Baliol, was Lord of Chilham; he married the widowed Isabel, Countess of Athol, who was buried in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral in 1292.

The sixth son of Countess Devorgilda was William Baliol le Scot, ancestor of the Scotts of Brabourne and Scot's Hall. He died about A.D. 1313, and was buried in the monastery of the Whitefriars at Canterbury. Of his son, John Scot, nothing is known, save that he was the father of Sir William Scot of Brabourne, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and Knight Marshal of England. Weever says (p. 269 of his "Funeral Monuments") that he saw a fragment of the inscription upon this Chief Justice's tomb, in Brabourne Church—"Hic . . . Wilhelmus Scot myles ob: 1350." He is the first of the family who is known to have been interred at Brabourne, where subsequently were laid the bodies of about seventeen generations of Scotts, during the following five centuries.

There are no traces of the tombs of the next three generations, represented by Michael Scot, whose wife

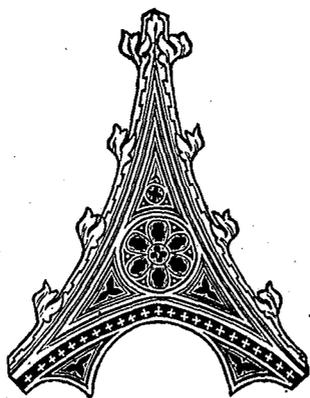


Fig. A.

was named Emma; William Scot, who acquired the manor of Heyton in Smeeth from Richard Dering; and John Scot, who married the Cumbe heiress, and was Lieutenant of Dover Castle in the time of Henry IV. He represented Hythe in the Parliament of 1384, and died in 1413.

His second son, Sir Robert Scott, was Lieutenant of the Tower of London in 1424, but his heir was William Scot, who, having built Scot's Hall, at Smeeth, in or about 1428, kept his shrievalty there as High Sheriff of Kent, in 1429. He represented the county in the ninth Parliament of Henry VI., A.D. 1431, and died 5 Feb., 1433. By his will, dated 1428, he desired to be buried in Brabourne Church, before the door of Trinity Chapel. Weever (p. 269) says that he saw the following inscription commemorative of this scion of the family:—

“ Hic jacet Wilhelmus Scot de Braborne ar. qui obiit 5 Feb. 1433
cuius anim’,” &c.

Sis testis Christe quod non iacet hic lapis iste
Corpus ut ornatur sed spiritus ut memoretur
Quis-quis eris qui transieris sic perlege plora
Sum quod eris fueramque quod es pro me precor ora.”

Philipot states that this monument was in the south aisle, and bore three shields of arms, each impaling Scott.*

There cannot be much doubt that the monumental brass, still existing, of a knight under a canopy, commemorates this William Scot. The details of the brass can be seen in the accompanying engraving

- * 1. Above two chevrons, a lion in dexter chief (Orlastone.)
2. A winged griffin rampant (Finche.)
3. Quarterly, 1 and 3, a chevron, between 3 griffins passants regardants (Finche); 2 and 4, three birds in pale (Peplesham.)

(fig. A). Near it, in the floor of Brabourne Church, there is an admirable effigy in brass of a lady (fig. B), with flowing hair down to her knees. This is believed to represent Isabel, Lady Clifton, the second wife of William Scott. Upon his death she married Sir Gervase Clifton. There is no inscription now remaining on this brass, but Weever (p. 270) thus transcribes the epitaph upon Lady Clifton's monument:—

“Hac necis in cella iacet hic prudens Isabella
 Qui nulli nocuit sed Domino placuit
 Sponsa fuit fata venerabilis et peramata
 Clifton Gervasii militis egregii
 Ante fuit dicta Wilhelmi Scotti relicta
 Harbard vocata vel Fynche certe scies
 Dicitur hic alias mille quater centum
 Petit L. cum septem monumentum
 Novembris deca bis hiis numerando dabis.”

Weever (p. 270) also gives us the following inscription upon Sir Gervase Clifton,* the last husband of this lady. He died circa 1450:—

“Geruasium Clifton istam genuisse Johannam
 Sta lege cui John Digge sociatus erat
 Morte cadit corpus sequitur cito mater
 Filia prevenit hanc cui solet esse sequax
 Christe tuas famulas fac post te scandere celos
 Et post coniugia regna tenere tua.”

From Weever, also, we get a monumental inscription to Dyonesya Finch, of the family of Fitz Herbert or Finch, of Netherfield, in the county of

* Philipot (Harl. 3917, 77 a.) gives a shield of arms, semé of stars, a lion rampant, from “A monument of S^r Gervas Clifton Knight (in the South Ile) whose daughter was married unto William Scott. He married a Finch.” Philipot mistook the relationship.

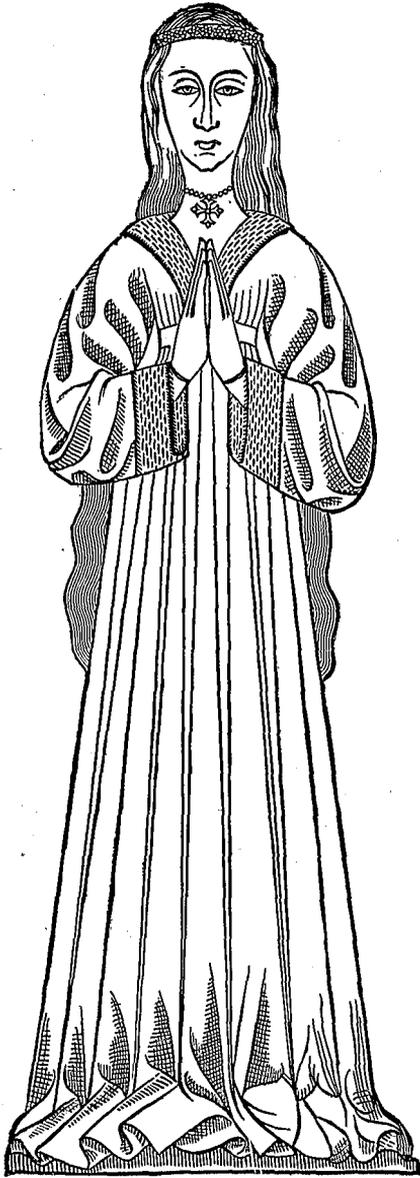


Fig. B.

Sussex, of about the same date as the previous monument.*—

“ Subiacet hac Petra Dionisia nunc caro tetra
 Que fuerat nata Fynche aut Harbard vocata ;
 Vincent armigeri : cui parce Jesu mulieri [Johanne umberi (Philipot)]
 Dormit non moritur licet hic terra sepelitur.
 Qui bene pensetur qui credit non morietur
 Anno milleno C quater [semell L (Philipot)] cape pleno
 Bis quater appone celi iunge corone

 Cui sit salvamen Deus omnipotens precor. Amen.”

Philipot adds that there was on the tomb in brass a coat—“ Finch quartering Peplesham.”

The sixth Scott, who is known to have been interred at Brabourne, was Sir John, son of the last-named Sir William, of Scot's Hall. Sir John Scott's tomb, upon the north side of the chancel (see fig. 5, page 8), is of Caen stone, and lies beneath an arched and embattled canopy, which is carved so as to form a panelled roof. The recumbent effigy, or monumental brass, has disappeared. Upon panels cut on the front of this altar tomb are carved the arms of Sir John Scott and of his wife, Agnes Beaufitz. Weever records the inscription, now lost, as follows:—

“ Hic jacet magnificus ac insignis miles Johannes Scot
 Quondam Regis domus invictissimi Principis Edwardi Quarti
 Controll : et nobilissima integerrimaque Agnes uxor ejus
 Qui quidem Johannes obiit anno 1485 die mensis Oct. 17.”

This Sir John Scott was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Knight Marshal of Calais, and the ambassador sent by Edward IV. to the Dukes of Burgundy and Bretagne, to bring back the Earls of

* Philipot, in his Notes in Harl. MS. 3917, fol. 77 b, states that this inscription was in the south chancel.

Pembroke and Richmond, "whose escape did much perplex their king's suspicious thoughts."* For his services, Sir John Scott received from the king a grant of the Honour and Castle of Chilham, which had formerly been held by his ancestors, the Earls of Athol.

Another brass (fig. c) represents a knight in full armour, and bears this inscription:—

"Of your charite pray for the soule of Sr William Scott, Knight, which departyd owt of this world the 24th day of August, the yere of our Lord 1524 on whos sowle of your charite saye a Pater Noster and an Ave."

This Sir Wm. Scott is the seventh of the family who is known to have been interred at Brabourne. He was a Knight of the Bath, Sheriff of Kent, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and Constable of Dover Castle.

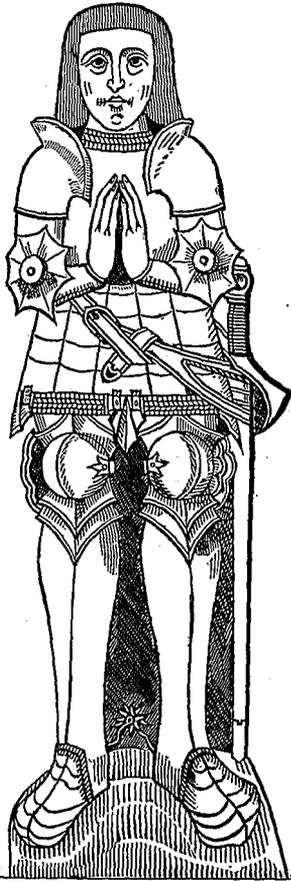
He rebuilt Scot's Hall in Smeeth. His sister Elizabeth, or Isabella, married Sir Edward Poynings, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in 1509, and Lord of Westenhanger Castle, which he rebuilt. She is commemorated by a brass (fig. d) which bears this inscription:—

"Of youre charite pray for the soule of Dame Elizabeth Pownynges, late Wyf to Sr Edward Pownynges, the whych Dame Elizabeth decessed the 15th day of August, the Yere of our Lord God 1528—on whose soule Jesu have mercy Amen."

The ninth Scott interred here was Sir Reginald, grandson of the last-named Sir William, and son of Sir John Scott † by his wife Anne Pimpe, who was

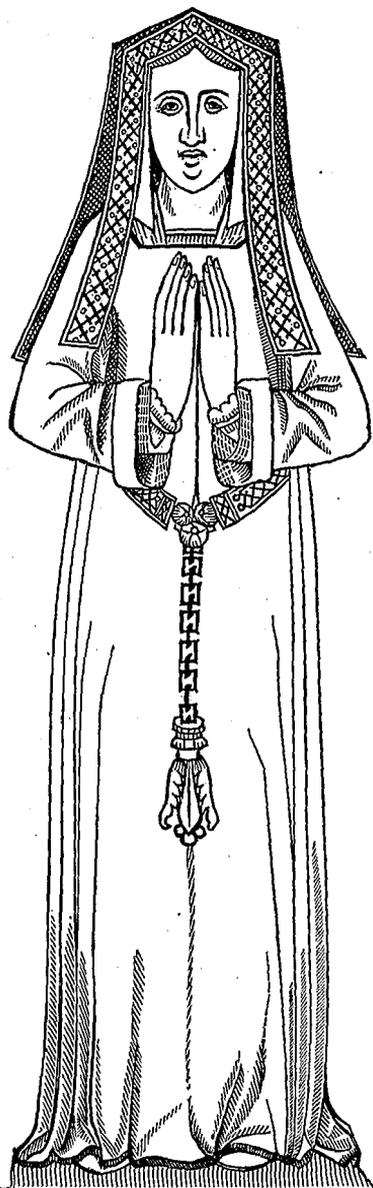
* Weever, p. 270.

† Philipot says that he saw here a monument to Sir John Scott, who died in 1533, but it cannot now be traced.



Et your charite pray for the Soule of E Gilba Scott knyght whiche
 departed out of this world xxij day of august the yere of o lord
 m^o c^o xxxij on whos soule of your charite laye a paternost^r ten one

Fig. C.



of no chere may for the Soule of dame Elizabeth polymunge & late wyf to
of Edward polymunge the which dame Elizabeth departed the xxij day of
august y^e of o^r lord god ys xxij on whose Soule I ha bene mercymen

Fig. D.

cousin and heir of John Gower* of Clapham, and who brought in dower the manor of Thevegate in Smeeth. Sir Reginald Scott made his will in 1554.

A very conspicuous feature in the church is a Bethersden marble tomb, placed immediately below the great East window† of the chancel. This genealogical achievement has five panels above the altar tomb, the first of which with the date 1290 commemorates the marriage of Wm. Baliol le Scot, whose wife's name is unknown; her coat impaled with that of Scot is left blank. Four other impalements are likewise blank.

On this altar tomb's front and sides appear the arms of the later alliance of the Scotts, the last being the arms of Dorothy Beer of Horsman's Place, Dartford, the third and surviving wife of Sir Thos. Scott, temp. Queen Elizabeth. Philipot (Harl. 3917, fol. 78a) ascribes this tomb to Mr. Reginald Scott.

The finial of the tomb encloses a shield of the arms of Scott quartered with those of Beaufitz, De Pympe, De Pashley, Sergieux, Warren, Normanville, Gower, and Cogan, and surmounted by the crest, a demi Griffin *sable* segreant, beaked langued and clawed *or*, being that of the Scott family.

The ornamental frieze, or cornice, of this altar tomb bore the following inscription, now illegible:—

“The memorial of the just shall be blessed, but the name of the wicked shall rot.” Prov. x. 7.

* Weaver and Philipot both mention a monument here with this inscription:—“Hic jacet expertus sub marmore miles opertus, Gower Robertus animæ sis Christe misertus.” See ‘Archæologia Cantiana,’ vol. vi., p. 86.

† In this window, Philipot says (Harl. 3917, fol. 78 a), were three shields of arms. 1. Scott, impaling saltire engrailed between four birds (Beaufitz). 2. Diggs, impaling Clifton. 3. Quarterly:—1. Clifton; 2. Finche; 3. Three shovellers in pale (Peplesham); 4. Clifton.

In various portions of the panelling of the tomb there are other texts of Scripture taken chiefly from the Book of Proverbs. They are in the quaint language in use before the publication of the present authorized version of the Bible (circa 1611).

On a large slab of black marble in the chancel floor is an inscription to the memory of Elizabeth Scott:—

“Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth Scott, the Wife of Thomas Scott of Scot’s Hall Esq., sole heir and daughter of Thomas Honywood of Sene Esq. She survived her Husband and dyed without issue 9th May, in the 60th yere of her age, and in the yere of our Lord 1627.”

In the South or Scott chapel is a crossed coffin slab of about the thirteenth century; and in the same chapel are the following inscriptions:—

“Here liest the body of Sir John Scott son of
Sir Thomas Scott.”

“Justice of the Peace and Captain of a Company
. Troup of Lancers.”
A.D. Sept^r 1616.”

“This monument was placed by appointment of his brother Sir Ed. Scott, Knight of the Order of the Bath.”

“Near this place lie the remains of Arthur Scott, 3rd son of George Scott of Scott’s Hall by Cecilia his 2nd wife daughter of Sir Edward Deering Bart. of Surrenden in this County. He married Mary eldest daughter of the Hon^{ble} Charles Compton and sister to the present Earl of Northampton but left no issue.”

“He was appointed Commander of one of His Majesty’s Ships of War 1743 and Commissioner of the Royal Navy 1754. He died the 27th day of February 1756 aged 37 years and 9 months, greatly lamented by his family and friends. In this life respected by his superiors, beloved by all, an ornament to his profession, an honour to his country, a friend to mankind.”

“Erected A.D. 1759 at the desire of William Scott, Brother to the deceased.”

On the north wall are the following :—

“ Cholmeley Scott Esq.”

“ Youngest son of George Scott of Scott's Hall by Cecilia his wife born 20 Oct. 1723. Died 3rd May 1771 & buried near this place.”

“ He was many years Lieut^t Colonel of the 11th Reg^t of Foot & Gentleman Usher of His Majesty's Most Hon^{ble} Privy Chamber.”

“ Without ostentation, Valiant, Humane, & Generous.”

“ In memory of Edward Scott of Scot's Hall Esq. who died 25th May 1765 aged 65 and Margaret his Wife who died 29th Dec^r 1818 aged 93.”

“ She was daughter of John Sutherland by Christina his Wife daughter of Robert Cunningham of Gilberfield near Glasgow & Brae Head in Kintyre.”

“ Verily there is a reward for the righteous, doubtless there is a God that judgeth the Earth.”

“ To their beloved & respected parents this monument was erected by Edward and Catherine two of their surviving sons & daughters.”

This monument is surmounted by a shield with the family arms and crest. It is the only memorial in the church which bears a motto :—

“ Bien ou Rien.”

Mrs. Scott was Foster-mother of the Prince of Wales, afterwards Geo. IV.

“ In memory of Francis Talbot Scott of Scot's Hall Esq. who died 22nd June 1789 aged 44.”

“ In memory of Catherine second daughter of Edward Scott of Scot's Hall Esq. & Margaret his Wife. Born at Scot's Hall 17th Oct. 1749. Died in London 20 July 1837 unmarried. Her life was God's mercy in joy & comfort to many. Her death deep grief to the survivors of her family. Her brother Edward here places this memorial of his severe affliction in which of 10 Brothers & Sisters one alone Charlotte (Mrs. Saxton) is left to participate.”

“ But now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruit of them that sleep.”

On the pavement beneath an arch in the south wall of the Scott Chapel is a stone with this inscription :—

“ Edward Scott Esq.”

“ 1765.”

The only other inscription in the church relating to the Scott family is on a small modern slab of black marble, in the wall of the same chapel. On it are three small shields, bearing each a separate arrangement of the device called St. Catherine's Wheel, and beneath them the words

“ Baliol ”

“ College Mark ”

“ Baliol le Scot ”

The obvious intention of this slab is to suggest the derivation of the arms of Scott, and of the St. Catherine Wheel badge of Baliol College, from the ancient armorial bearings of the Baliol family.

Two lines are added from a Welch poet in the original—

Ba Ryw Hall Bur Wehelyth

Ba Rai Beilch A Bery Byth.

of which Mr. Brothers, the late Vicar, has furnished an almost literal translation—

“ What generous race of lineage pure
What proud ones shall for aye endure.”