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**Notes on a Monumental Effigy and a "Brass" in the Church of  
Quinton, Gloucestershire**

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NOTES ON A MONUMENTAL EFFIGY AND A "BRASS"  
IN THE CHURCH OF QUINTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

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OUR fruitless endeavour to throw some light upon the descent of the family of Clopton (Cockfield ?), of Clopton, near Stratford-upon-Avon, referred to in our last vol. (XII., pp. 206-208), naturally excited in our minds an interest in the name, and researches shewed that it was by no means uncommon. There were many families so called derived from almost as many counties. We found Clopton in Essex, in Suffolk, in Warwickshire, in Worcestershire, and in divers other counties, but the ancient family of Clopton, of Clopton-on-the-Hill, in the county of Gloucester, seems to have been, to a great extent, overlooked.

On the occasion of the visit of this Society to the very interesting Church of Quinton, on the 10th August, 1887, attention was naturally attracted to the effigy of a Knight lying on a low altar tomb under the arcade of the south aisle. We were told that according to tradition it commemorated Sir William Clopton, but on a cursory inspection, which time only permitted, there did not appear to be any arms by which the tradition could be supported, though in the chapel at the east end of the south aisle is a fine Brass of Joan, the relict of Sir William Clopton, which Joan died December, 1430.

Our first impression was that if the tradition were well founded Sir William Clopton was probably a member of the family of Clopton, of Clopton, by Stratford, but this conjecture was quickly dispelled, for the arms impaled on the Brass of the lady,<sup>1</sup> are entirely unlike any found in the church of Stratford-upon-Avon.

<sup>1</sup> See *ante* Vol. XII., pp. 217-218.

Who then was this Sir William Clopton? After some research we found that a certain Sir Richard de Clopton, on 8th March, 1271-2, received from King Hen. III. a grant of Free Warren in all his lands in Clopton, co. Glouc., to hold to him and his heirs for ever.<sup>1</sup> In which the King describes him in the usual style for a Knight his "beloved and faithful." He was probably the son of Sir Richard de Clopton, who in 1238 sold the meadow of Hampton, near Alveston, to the Abbot of Worcester. Not knowing at the time that the Manor of Clopton-upon-the-Hill and Radbrook was at this early date held by a family of the name of Clopton; we thought it possible that the Sir Robert might have been a shadowy ancestor of the Cloptons of Stratford,<sup>2</sup> but inasmuch as Hampton and Alveston, though within the borders of Warwickshire, were very near to the possessions of the Cloptons of Quinton, we think it very much more likely that the grantor of the meadow referred to was of the Gloucestershire family, and, judging from the dates, was probably the father of the above-named Sir Richard.

Inasmuch as the Clopton estate was held in mesne tenure, and not of the King *in capite*, the inquisitions taken, if any, on the deaths of the respective tenants, would not be returnable into Chancery, and hence we miss those valuable evidences of the devolutions of manors and succession of families. In such cases, if the lands were held by military service, the inquisitions would be returned to the Chief Lord and deposited with the archives of his house.

Sir William Clopton was the son of John Clopton, by Mary, daughter and heir of Sir Robert Charleton, Knt., by Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heir of Sir William Besyn, Knt., who was living 17th Edw. III. (1342-3), which John succeeded his father in lands in Kerswell, co. Worcester, which the said John held of the Bishop of Worcester.<sup>3</sup> John was the son of William Clopton, by Anne, sister and heir of John de la Morehall. Morehall is in

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Pat., 56th Henry III., m. 4.

<sup>2</sup> See Vol. XII., p. 207.

<sup>3</sup> Hist. of Worc., Vol. I., p. 20.

the county of Warwick, and was anciently called Withlackford. In 2nd Richard II., Robert, Parson of Ecclesfield, granted this manor to John de Morehall, and Agnes his wife and the heirs of their two bodies, in default remainder to Thomas de Morehall, with remainder to John de Clopton and his heirs, in virtue of which settlement the Manor of Withlackford, or Wicklackford, called also Wicksford, and now Wixford, devolved upon John Clopton and his heirs.<sup>1</sup> Judging from the dates, William Clopton, father of this John, would seem to have been the great-grandson of Richard Clopton, the grantee of free warren in all his lands in Clopton, and, according to Fosbrooke,<sup>2</sup> including Radbroke, which sometime pertained to it.

It would appear from the Inquisition taken at Tewkesbury on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Gregory the Pope (7th March, 1419-20), after the death of Sir William Clopton, that at the time of his death he did not hold any lands in his demesne as of fee or of service in the County of Gloucester, but the jurors say that a certain Thomas Crewe, Esq., Nicholas Spencer, chaplain, and John Treysell, chaplain, being seized in their demesne as of fee of the Manor of Rodbrook, granted the same to the aforesaid William Clopton, Johanna his wife and William Wolashill, and

<sup>1</sup> Dugdale, *Hist. of Warwicksh.*, Vol. II., p. 860.

<sup>2</sup> *History of Glouc.*

<sup>3</sup> Dugdale states (*Hist. Warw. II.*, p. 860) that a certain Juliana, wife of Thomas Crewe "was the mother of Sir William Clopton, and widow (as I guess) of John Clopton mentioned in the text." We do not, however, find anything to support this conjecture. The Heralds' Visitation of Worcestershire in 1569, in the Harewell pedigrees, shows the alliance in question as stated in the text, and, as Dugdale speaks uncertainly and quotes no authority, we must adhere to the Heralds' record. Nevertheless it is quite possible that this Juliana might have been a second wife of John Clopton, and step-mother of Sir William, for there would seem to have been some connection between Sir William and Thomas Crewe her husband. We see in the text that he was a trustee under Sir William's settlement of his estate, and Dugdale tells us that he held the Manors of Apsley, Wicksford and Morehall for life, under the assignment of Sir William Clopton, possibly in right of his (Crewe's) wife's dower.

Thomas Crewe was a man of some importance in Warwickshire. He was Chief Steward of Richard, Earl of Warwick, and of his Council, in 3rd Henry V., and had been Knight of the Shire in 6th Henry IV., and Sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire, in 1st Henry V., and also was for some years in the Commission of the Peace. He made his will on the 5th Sept.

the heirs of the body of the said William Clopton, by charter dated Radbrook, Sunday next before the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary, 13th Henry IV., (8th September, 1412) by the name of the Manor of Rodbrok, with all its appurtenances in Quinton superior and Quinton inferior, which same manor, they say, is held of Henry Fitz Hugh as of his Manor of Quinton, by what service they are ignorant, and they say that the aforesaid Manor in all its issues beyond reprises is worth 100s per annum; and they say further that the aforesaid William Clopton, died on 7th Sept., 7th Henry V. (1419), and that Thomas Clopton, Esq., is son and heir of the said William, and is aged 16 years and more.<sup>1</sup>

Besides his lands mentioned above Sir William Clopton, in right of Johanna his wife, held the Manors of More Fladford and Hull, and the sixth part of the Manor of Chaddeswyche and Wyllynwyche, and the advowson of the Church of Fleford in the County of

1418, wherein he desired to be buried in the Chapel of St. John the Baptist, adjoining the Church of Wicksford, which he had built; and appointed his sister, Elizabeth, Prioress of Chester, together with Sir William Clopton and Dame Joan, his wife's executors. He died in the same year, and was buried as he desired under a fair monument of grey marble, raised about 18 inches from the ground, in the midst of the chapel, whereon, Dugdale says, are the portraitures in brass of himself and his wife. An engraving has been given by Dugdale of this brass, from which it appears that Juliana died on the 20th December, 1411, but the date of the death of her husband has been left blank. These Brasses are not mentioned by Haines or Davies.

One Wm. Wolashall, whose name will also be found mentioned in the same document obtained in 26 Hen. VI. (Rot. Pat. 26 Hen. VI. Part I. m. 2) licence to found a chantry in this chapel for one priest to celebrate to the honour of Our Lady and St. John Baptist for the good estate of the said King and Margaret his Queen, and of the said William during their lives, and for their souls after their departure hence, together with the souls of Thomas Crewe, Esq., and Juliana his wife, Sir William Clopton, Knt., and Joane his wife, their parents and friends, unto whose (the priest's) use he gave in pure alms a dwelling house in Wykesford, and a close containing two acres of land. This foundation was, however, disallowed by the King's Commissioners in 37th Henry VIII., but it was re-established afterwards by one Richard Mytton at the request of Dame Sybil Mytton his mother, doubtless a descendant of Elizabeth, one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir John Burgh by her husband Thomas Mytton.

The terms of this foundation excludes the idea that Juliana Crewe was the mother of Sir William Clopton.

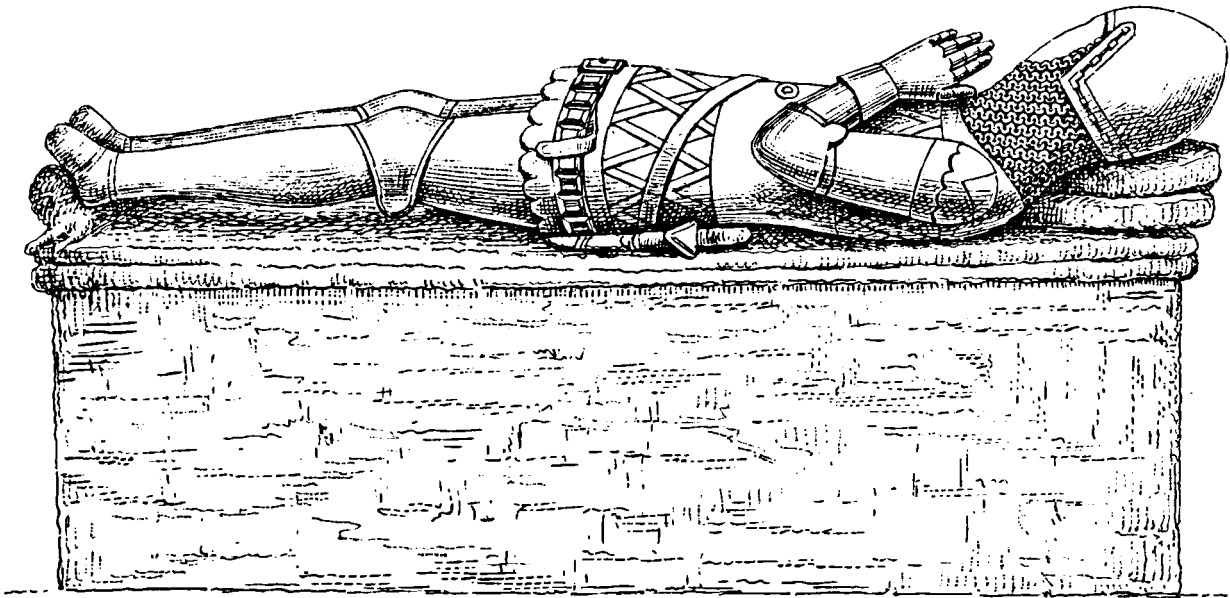
<sup>1</sup> Inq. p.m. 7th Henry V. No. 46.

Worcester. He was also seized of divers other lands and manors in the Counties of Worcester, Stafford, Salop, and in the Marches of Wales, but these we have not thought it necessary to follow up, and we know not what estate in them he had or of whom they were held.

Sir William Clopton married Johanna, second daughter and coheir of Alexander Besford, *alias* Pearsford, of Besford, co. Worcester, by whom he had a daughter and heir who was called Johanna after her mother.<sup>1</sup> There cannot, we think, be much doubt that the name was originally Pearsford, and that the family assumed, or popularly had given to them, the name of Besford from residing on a manor so called. This would seem to be shewn by the canting arms which they bore: *Gules, a fess between six pears slipped and pendant, or*, and emphasised by the use of pears as stops between the lines on Lady Clopton's Brass.

The effigy of Sir William Clopton is much mutilated and abraded, but a closer examination has brought to light much which was before unobserved. It lies on a plain altar tomb. 6 ft. in length, and is represented in the armour of the period, but of a fashion somewhat earlier than the death of the deceased. The head, on which is a basinet to which a small *camail* of mail is attached, rests on a double cushion, the upper one being placed lozengewise. The features of the face are entirely obliterated. The body is encased in plate armour, with additional plates to protect the shoulders and elbows, *genouillières* defend the knees, and solerets the feet, on which the spur-leathers appear, but the spurs are broken off, as are the toes of the *sollerets*. The feet rest on a dog, of which the head is gone, but the two fore legs appear under the feet of the effigy on the left side. Over the *cuirass* is worn a short *jupon*, apparently made of leather, scalloped at the bottom, on which the Knight's arms are displayed. The sword, of which the hilt only remains, was supported by a narrow belt passing diagonally across the body from above the right hip, and is kept

<sup>1</sup> Dugdale states that Sir William had another daughter named Agnes, the wife of Thomas Herberd, but no such person is named in the records. He cites an old exemplification in the library at Hatton, dated 22nd Feb., 22nd Henry VI., of the partition of the estates.



Effigy of Sir William Clopton, Died 1419, Quinton.

steady by two other small straps underneath. A broad embroidered *baldrick*, decorated with little square ornaments, crosses the body horizontally, and is fastened with a buckle in front, to this the *analace* is attached on the right side. The hands are covered with cuffed gauntlets. Upon the breast appears an annulet, but whether it is attached to the wrist or to the jupon we cannot at present state with certainty. We should have supposed it to have been the cadency mark of a fifth son, except that Sir William Clopton appears to have been the eldest, if not the only, son of his father (See *Plate XI.*)

The Brass of Lady Clopton is set on an altar tomb in the midst of a small chapel east of the south aisle, and is in excellent condition, appearing not to have been tampered with in any way, though the altar formerly in the chapel has been removed. The brass is mentioned in *Haines' Manual*, Part II., p. 70, in which the lady is described as a *Vowess*. It is fully described in Mr. C. Davis's *Gloucestershire Brasses*, in which this description of the lady as a *vowess* is continued. We do not quite understand what precise idea these writers intend to convey by the term they use. Vows are of different kinds. We shall return to the subject presently.

As Mr. Davis's Collection is not yet published, except in the columns of the *Gloucestershire Journal* some years ago, it may be well here briefly to state a few of the particulars. The figure lies under an oge crocketed canopy, within which is a circular cinque-foiled head, the tympanum being filled with tracery of a beautiful design. This head is supported by a light crocketed shaft, on either side with pinnacles rising to the height of the finial of the canopy, between the pinacles and which are two shields of arms: on the dexter side those of Clopton, *ar. two bars, gu., fretté or*; and on the sinister, those of Pearsford, or Besford, *Gu., a fess between six pears slipped pendant or*, and under the bases of the shafts: on the dexter side the above two coats impaled, and on the sinister the former coat, with the addition of a *canton ar.* The lady's head is covered with the vail-head-dress or hood, the vail is thrown over the side cauls, which causes the head-dress to assume somewhat the shape of the "horned"-head-dress, and it hangs

down, covering the shoulders. A gorge or wimple covers her neck ; this was drawn up over the chin in plaits, and strained up on each side of the face. The kirtle is long and has tight sleeves with narrow fur cuffs at the wrists. The mantle is fastened by a cord, which passes through two metal loops with studs in front, termed *fermailes*, placed on each side of the mantle, this cord passes through a slide made of cord, and terminates below the waist in two tassels. Beneath is a tight-fitting gown not girt at the waist. On her right hand is a ring with a jewel. The whole design is of an elegant character (*See Plate XII.*), but because, from the illustration being on so small a scale, the inscriptions are difficult to read, we think it well to print them.

On a ribbon over the head of the effigy we have a verse of the 40th Psalm :

**“ Complacat tibi Dne eripias me  
Dne ad adiuvandu me respice.”**

And surrounding the verge is the following inscription :

**Criste nepos Anne Clopton miserere Joh'e  
Que tibi sacrata clauditur hic vidua  
Milite defuncto sponso pro te ihu fuit ista  
Larga libens miseris prodiga & hospitibus  
Sic ven'abilibus templis sic fudit egenis  
Mitteret ut celis quas sequeretur opes  
Pro tantis meritis sibi donec regna beata  
Nec premat urna rogo s; beet aula dei.**

At the end of each of these lines is the figure of a pear as stated above, and at each of the four corners of the inscription round the verge is a symbol of one of the Evangelists: viz., at the upper dexter corner that of St. John, an eagle; upper sinister, St. Matthew: an angel habited in amice and alb; lower dexter St. Mark: a winged lion; lower sinister, St. Luke: a winged ox. Each holding a label, the inscriptions on which we are unable to give.

It is evident from the inscriptions on this brass that after her husband's death, and by his desire, the Lady Clopton became a Recluse,<sup>1</sup> at Quinton: “*Que tibi sacrata clauditur hic vidua*

<sup>1</sup> We said *ante* that Vows, referring to religious vows, were different in egree, a recluse or anchoress was only one variety of an ascetic life, and even



Brass of Dame Joan Clopton, Quinton

WARDS LITH. BRAD. ST. BRISTOL

*Milite defuncto sponso pro te ihu fuit ista.*" And her husband is described as a most religious, beneficent, and charitable man. We do not know if any indication of the lady's cell exists.

We have seen in the Inquisition taken on the death of Sir William Clopton that he left a son and heir named Thomas, over 16 years of age. What became of him we know not. He must have died s.p. under age and unmarried, for his sister Johanna became her father's sole heir. She married Sir John de Burgh, of co. Salop, to whom she carried the Clopton estates. It is shewn by the Inquisition taken at Gloucester, on the vigil of the feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle (23rd August, 1471), that the said John de Burgh, Knt., on the day on which he died, held, for the term of his life, by the law of England, after the death of Johanna his late wife, of John Newport, son and heir of Elizabeth, one of the daughters and heirs of the aforesaid Johanna, also of John Leghton, son and heir of Ankerett, late wife of John Leghton, at this time living, another daughter and heir of the aforesaid Johanna; also of Isabell, wife of John Lingen, Knt., third daur.

recluses took vows of greater or less severity. All, however, were dead to the world, though their cells were more or less comfortable. Generally they had a woman servant, who lived in an adjoining room, to attend to their necessities. We should gather from the inscription that Dame Joan was one of the more severe order. The cell of such was a small room adjoining the church. It usually had three windows, one opening into the church, and commanding a view of the High Altar, or perhaps some other altar (probably Dame Joan's cell was contiguous to the chapel which most likely her husband built) so that the inmate might have the advantage of hearing mass. There was another window through which she might receive her food or converse with visitors. This, ordinarily, was closed with a black curtain with a white cross upon it, or a shutter, to be used at the pleasure of the inmate. The other window was for light.

No person was allowed to enter this solitary life without the Bishop's licence, who required security that the inmate should be suitably accommodated and provided with food and all other necessaries, and those preliminaries being settled to his satisfaction, he himself enclosed her with a solemn service, placing his seal upon the door of the cell (unless it was walled up), which could not be removed without his consent, unless extreme sickness or death of the inmate rendered it necessary.

Much may be read concerning the life of an anchoress from an interesting volume printed by the Camden Society in 1853, entitled the "Ancren Riwle," supposed to have been written by Simon of Ghent, who was consecrated Bishop of Salisbury 1297.

and heir of the said Johanna; and also of Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Mytton, Esq., four daughters and heirs of the aforesaid Johanna, the Manors of Clopton and Radbrook, with appurtenances, and three messuages, three tofts and three carucates of lands, with appurtenances, in Over Quinton, also the moiety of one messuage, one croft, one curtilage, one columbarium, three virgates of land and fourteen acres of pasture, with appurtenances, in Mykylton, also the moiety of one messuage, with appurtenances, in Campeden; and further the jurors say that the said Manor of Clopton is held of Jacosa Beauchamp, as of her Manor of Ebrington by service at the court of the said Jacosa's manor aforesaid, twice a year for all secular services, and the value per annum is 66s. 8d., and that the aforesaid Manor of Radbrook, with appurtenances, is held of Matilda, late wife of the late Lord Willoughby, as of her Manor of Quenton by fealty and service and a rent of 6s. per annum, and that the said manor is worth 46s. per annum; the said three messuages in Over Quinton are held of the said Matilda as of the said Manor of Quinton by fealty and service and rent of 20d. for all secular services, and that the value beyond reprises is 26s. 8d., and that the said messuage and croft in Mickelton are held of the Abbot of Busam (? Evesham) by the service of one red rose at the feast of St. John Baptist for all secular services, and the value per annum is 20s; and that the said moiety of one messuage, &c., in Campeden is held of John Stanley, Knt., of his Manor of Campeden by the rent of 6d. for all secular services, and that the value per annum is 6d. And the jurors say that the said John de Burgh died seized of the said manors as of fee by the law of England, reversion thereof after the deaths of the said John and Johanne his wife to the aforesaid John Newport, Thomas Leghton, Isabell Lingen, and Elizabeth Mytton, as nearest heirs of the said Johanna, and further the jurors say that the said John held no other lands in this county on the day on which he died, or in the Marches of Wales; and also they say that the said John died on Saturday in the vigil of Pentecost last past (1471); and they say further that the said John Newport, on the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was of the full age of 21 years and more, that

Thomas Leghton was aged 18 years at the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord last past, and no more ; that the said Isabella is aged 30 years and more, and that the said Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Mytton, is aged 26 years and more, and that the aforesaid John Leghton, father of the said Thomas Leghton, is at this time living.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Inq. p.m. 11th Edward IV. No. 61.

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## PEDIGREE OF CLOPTON, OF CLOPTON &amp; RADBROOK, CO. GLOUC.

