

the items Thomas wished to remain in the house. Many legal suits followed until, eventually, Robert King, or Robert King Blundeville as he styled himself, won the day. In 1646, eight years after Patience's death he sold the estate to John Burman of Norwich

With these details in mind we return to that strange third compartment on the Blundeville memorial. Inspection suggests its arrangement was an afterthought. It appears to be hollow behind the brass plaque, and the stone armorials below it are carved on two stone inserts and not cut on the stone entablature itself. Some light could be shone on the matter if the words in Thomas's will were clearer. When he says the tomb was made in his lifetime for his immediate family and for a monument for his ancestors, does he mean one or two memorials? It is quite possible that there were two and the plaque, which says Thomas fixed it in 1571, thirty-four years before he wrote his will, might then have been fixed in the church only to be later taken down and be reaffixed in the stone monument to hide the gap left for a non surviving son, or something now hidden?

At the end of his will Thomas directed that all his evidences be laid in the great chest with two locks which was then in the new false roof of the manor house he called his 'Poor Swan's nest'. Bear this in mind as you leave the northern portal of the church for there stands an ancient chest from who knows from where!

References.

- (1). A.Campling. *Thomas Blundeville, of Newton Flotman, co Norfolk (1522-1606) Author and Poet, tempo Elizabeth.* In *Norfolk Archaeology* vol. XXI, pp. 337-8.
- (2). F. Blomefield. *An Essay towards a History of Norfolk.* London, 2nd Edn. 1805-10, vol.V. p.68, footnote 6.
- (3). *The East Anglian or Notes and Queries.* Vol.I, p.317.
- (4). N. Pevsner. *The Buildings of England. North-west and South Norfolk,* 1962, p.270.
- (5). C.M.Hood (Editor) *The Chorography of Norfolk. An Historical and Chorographical Description of Norfolk.* Norwich 1938, p.130.
- (6). Campling p.353
- (7). The crosses are variously coloured, sometimes counterchanged. Those shown here are as they appeared in the heralds' visitation of Norfolk 1589 (RCF MS2, fo.6)
- (8). It will be noticed that the Gurney arms on the church battlements are differenced with a bendlet.
- (9). Hood pp.130-1 & 175; Blomefield V, 69; [Armstrong] *History and Antiquities of Norfolk.* Norwich 1781, vol.VII, Humbleyard division, pp.101-3; and E. Farrer. *The Church Heraldry of Norfolk.* Vol.I, Norwich 1887, p.179.

Select Pedigree.

