

Christopher Etherington (publisher)
The history and antiquities of Rochester cathedral
Rochester
1796

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THE
HISTORY
AND
Antiquities
OF
ROCHESTER
CATHEDRAL:

CONTAINING
AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT
OF THE PRINCIPAL
Monuments.

CAREFULLY CORRECTED.

And Illustrated with a Plate of the
WEST FRONT.

Rochester,
PRINTED AND SOLD BY C. ETHERINGTON,
No. 181, High-Street.

[PRICE SIX-PENCE.]

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...

Within a Gothic arch of Coades Manufactory, on a pyramidal piece of black marble, this inscription and arms, Or, a chevron gules, charged with three mullets argent, between two crescents and an escallop shell azure, charged with an escutcheon of pretence azure – three columns Or – in chief – argent – a hand gules.

Motto, Deus Major Columna.

In a vault near this monument
Is deposited all that was mortal of
Dame Ann Henniker,
Late the affectionate wife, of
Sir John Henniker, of Newtonhall,
And Stratford, in the County of Essex, Bart.
He represented Sudbury in the first Parliament
Of his present Majesty, and in two successive
Parliaments, the Town and Port of Dover
In this county.

Below which, is a beautiful sarcophagus of white marble, between two much admired figures of Time

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and Eternity, standing upon a base of grey marble, on face of which is the following inscription on white marble –

She was the eldest daughter of Sir John Major,
Bart. of Worlingworth Hall, in the county of
Suffolk, Member for Scarborough, and coheiress
with her surviving sister, Elizabeth, Dowager Dut=

chess of Henry, Duke of Chandos, two sons John late Member for New Romney and Brydges Trecothick, Lieutenant Colonel of his Majesty's 9th Regiment of Dragoons, and one daughter, Ann Elizabeth, Countess of Aldborough, are left with the disconsolate and much-afflicted husband, to mourn her loss, who, after 45 years of conjugal felicity in the practice of every virtue, resigned her soul to God at Bristol Hotwells, the 18th of July, 1792, aged 65.

Her second son Major, merchant of London, died the 3d of February, 1789, and lies buried at Streatham: he left five children, viz. John Minet, Mary Ann, Major Joes, Elizabeth Dall, and Brydges Jackson, all infants, now living.

On a grave stone near the above

Rest here in peace
All that was mortal of
Dame Ann Henniker,
Late wife of Sir John Henniker, Bart.
Of Newton Hall, in the County of Essex.
She departed this life the 18th of July, 1792,
Aged 65.

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In the North Transept within a small Gothic arch on a neat sarcophagus of various marble, the following inscription, above which, on grey marble, are those arms argent, two bars azure within a bordure engrailed, crest, a mermaid.

Near this place lie the remains of
John Parr, esq.
Store-keeper of the Ordnance at Chatham,
He passed between 50 and 60 years of his life in
His Majesty's Service,
And discharged his several engagements in it,
At home and abroad,
With the greatest assiduity, integrity and honour.
He died the 21st of March, 1792.
Aged 76 years.

Mrs. Mary Parr, caused this monument to be erected as a tribute of affection to the memory of a much respected brother.

<This seems to be the earliest guidebook of the kind, aimed at tourists visiting the cathedral. The publisher, Christopher Etherington, was a Rochester printer, only active for about two years: he died in October 1796, after which his widow Mary carried on the business (ESTC). This particular book is undated. On internal evidence it cannot be earlier than 1794 (see below), and some sheets in the British Library's copy are dated "1796" in the watermark (ESTC); so presumably it dates from 1796. The point is of little importance, because – with the possible exception of the last three pages – the text is entirely derivative. It starts by copying from Fisher's "History" (pp 3–4 from 1772:57–8); then it switches to the "Kentish Traveller's Companion", specifically the fourth edition of that book (pp 4–19 from 1794:154–66, incorporating some snippets from Fisher's "History"). The next section (pp 19–24) is spliced together from three sources – the two already mentioned plus Thorpe's "Registrum Roffense" (1769). As scissors-and-paste work goes, this is quite intelligently done, but there is no point in reading it when one can read the books from which it was pieced together. After that the text becomes a straightforward reprint of this section of the "Registrum Roffense" (pp 24–58 from 1769:703–21), until it ends by giving an account of two monuments just erected. The description of Lady Heniker's monument (pp 58–9) is largely the same as a report in the "Gentleman's Magazine", May 1794, p 410, reprinted from a recent issue of the "Kentish Gazette"; that of John Parr's monument (p 60) was quite possibly also copied from a local newspaper. For the time being, these pages may be of some use; so I transcribe them here. The only illustration is the one mentioned on the title-page, the same plate originally made for Fisher's "History".>