

quite perfect, excepting the loss of the lip. It was circular, (with a handle on either side,) about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and the same in height. This cup is probably one of the kind known in mediæval and later times as a *cruskyn*, *cruske*, or *cruce*, that is, a small earthen drinking cup.

“They had sucked such a juce
Out of the good ale *cruce*,
Wherein they found no dregges,
That neyther of them his hed
Could carry home to his bed
For lack of better legges.”

The Unluckie Firmentie.

The Irish still use the word with its Irish diminutive *een*—“a *cruiskeen* of whisky,” being a small pot or cup of that favourite liquor.

By MR. NEALE: An imperfect copy of the first edition of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, with illustrations. A good copy of Baxter's *Catholic Communion*, 1684.

By THE CHAIRMAN: A silver penny of Edward VI. (?)

By MR. GODDARD: Antique silver finger ring, apparently of foreign manufacture.

THE REV. J. H. HILL read the following paper, detailing some interesting discoveries made in Church Langton Church:—

CHURCH LANGTON CHURCH AND ITS FOUNDERS.

This Church, dedicated to S. Peter, now undergoing a complete restoration, is one which may claim the very highest rank in the county of Leicester, owing to its beautiful architecture and its size, and especially from the perfect elegance of its magnificent tower, which, from its simplicity, massiveness, and fine masonry, deserves especial attention and commendation.

The church consists of a chancel, nave with four bays, north and south aisle, south porch, and western tower. There is a rood loft staircase leading from the north aisle, and a piscina close to the doorway of the staircase.

The nave of the church, as well as the tower, are of the fourteenth century; the north and south aisles are of the Early Decorated period. In the chancel the door originally leading into the vestry still remains, and on the other side of the north wall are the vestiges of the vestry, with the remains of a beautiful fourteenth century piscina. The three sedilia and the piscina in the chancel are all of the fourteenth century date.

In the north and south aisle of the church there are two monumental arches called Founders' Monuments. These monuments were built at the same time as the church, and upon inspection I found that the large stones forming the arches extended nearly through the walls of the church. It was upon the 7th day of

September instant, that the workmen found the stone coffin belonging to the monument in the north aisle.* The coffin had been removed from its original position in the year 1831, when some alterations were made in the aisle. The lid was not upon the coffin; the coffin was filled with clay, and paved on the top with common bricks. Having removed these, I found at the bottom of the coffin several pieces of fourteenth century glass, which I now produce. The size of the coffin was as follows:—Length, six feet six inches; breadth, two feet at the upper end, and sixteen inches at the lower end; the thickness of it was three inches, depth fifteen inches, and it was wrought out of a solid block of Weldon stone. The coffin contained no bones. In this same aisle was the monument of Thomas de Langton, who was supposed by some to be a founder of the church. Burton writes thus of it:—"Upon the monument of Thomas de Langton are engraved the arms of Langton, azure, an eagle displayed with two heads; and argent, on a bend, sable, five bezants, or." That indefatigable and learned antiquary, Mr. Trollope, in his remarks upon the aisle in the year 1863, making mention of this tomb, observed that some one had not scrupled to steal it,—a practice, he added, common in the days of their predecessors. I hope this may not be true. Upon the tomb was inscribed this legend—"Ora pro anima Thomæ de Langton." I have searched diligently to find even a remnant of this tomb, but up to the present time my search has been in vain. I found several fine alabaster slabs which were taken up in this aisle, but none with either arms, legend, or date upon them, I regret this the more, because I have no doubt that this Thomas de Langton, though not a founder of the original early church, was a great benefactor to it, having built the noble tower and nave of Langton Church (about A.D. 1414), works of such solidity and strength that hitherto they have defied the ravages of time,—indeed, when roofed again, they will be in as perfect a condition as they were when first completed.

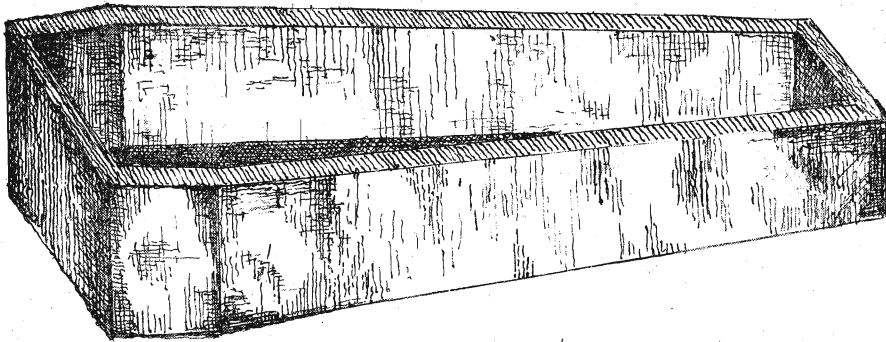
The most interesting discovery connected with this church was made upon the 14th day of September. Upon visiting the works in the south aisle on that day, I observed a wedged-shaped stone close by the monumental arch in that aisle. I was quite sure that this stone had some connection with the arch, and I procured a spade and dug into the ground close by it. The earth about the stone was so very soft and wet that I found little difficulty in readily arriving at a conclusion. The wedged-shaped stone was the covering of the founder's coffin. I obtained assistance, with some difficulty the massive slab was raised, and the remains of the founder were exposed to view. The bones were quite black, and embedded in a dark mud about three inches deep. The skull, vertebræ, thigh bones, leg bones, &c., were in a very good state of

* See Illustration.

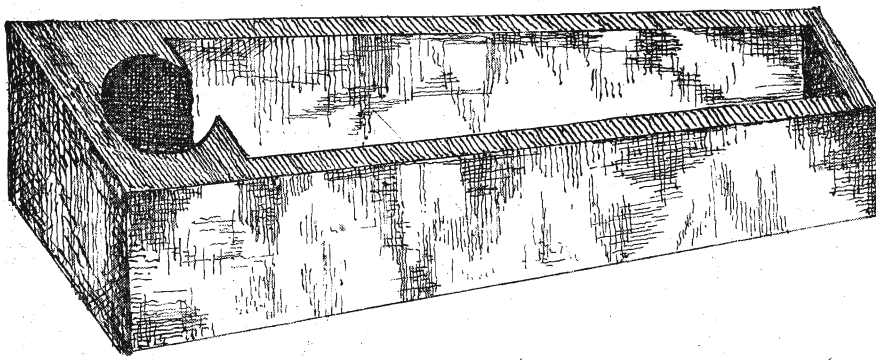
preservation,—the skull had rolled from its original position a trifle to the right side of the coffin. The leg bone was moved also a little to the right. I have no doubt this was caused by the coffin being filled with water for several days in the year; the water with which the church was cleansed having been swept into and left to sink in this corner of the church. This coffin was remarkable from the fact that the upper part was hollowed out for the reception of the head. I believe there is one of a similar kind in the crypt of Worcester Cathedral. The coffin was quite plain both at the sides and ends. It was cut out of a solid block of Weldon Rag stone. The dimensions of the coffin were as follows:—Length six feet six inches; two feet across at the head, eighteen inches at the lower end; depth, fourteen inches without, nine inches within; thickness three inches; the lid of the coffin six feet ten inches long, three feet broad at one end, and two feet three inches at the other; it was ten inches in thickness, and slightly hollowed within as you see in the drawing.* In the year 1863 when the late Mr. James and myself visited this church together, we came to this conclusion, that there were two founders to it, which opinion seems to have been perfectly right, as both founders' tombs are now discovered, and in a similar position opposite to one another. I remember very well my friend remarking that the monumental arch on the south side was at least three hundred years older than the effigy, which after the fashion of the day interpolated the arch. It appears that some years back (when an alteration was made amongst the pews in this aisle), the effigy of Sir Richard Roberts, Kt., was removed from the place it stood in originally, and put under this arch. And at the same time I have no doubt the ponderous alabaster slab which bears the legend "Hic jacet Willielmus Latimer," was moved from its position which it formerly held near the founder's arch. It will not be out of place here to enter into a short enquiry of the early history of Langton, and we shall then get at a knowledge of the names of the founders of this ancient and interesting parish church.

Robert de Braibroc purchased in 1210 the manor of Langton, which was inherited by his son Henry de Braibroc, who married Christiana Ledet, daughter of Guiscard Ledet, Baron of Wardon. Walter Ledet, grandson of Henry de Braibroc, married Ermintrude de Lysle. From this marriage issued two daughters, viz.: Alice and Christiana Ledet. The eldest daughter Alice, became the wife of Sir William Latimer le Riche, Kt., and the youngest daughter Christiana was the wife of Sir John Latimer. Now Sir William Latimer was brother to Sir John Latimer. Thus two brothers married two sisters, who were coheireses, and in right of their wives they became lords of the manor, and patrons of the

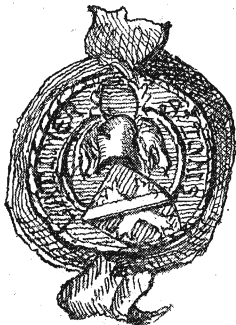
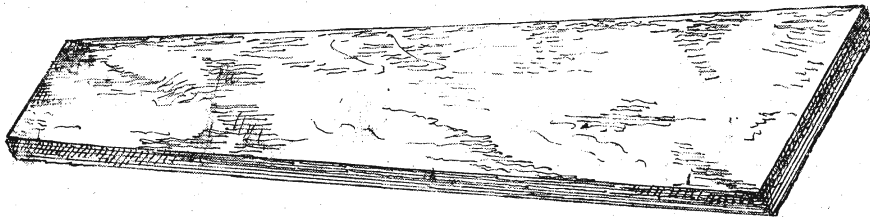
* See *Illustration*. The Society is much indebted to Mr. Hill for making the accurate drawings which illustrate this Paper.



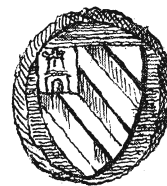
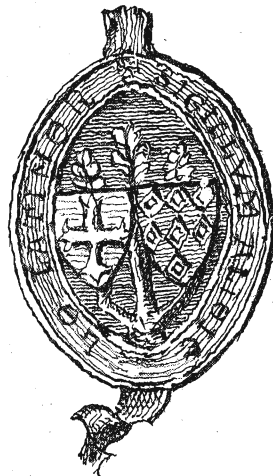
Founders Stone Coffin North Aisle, Church Langton Church.



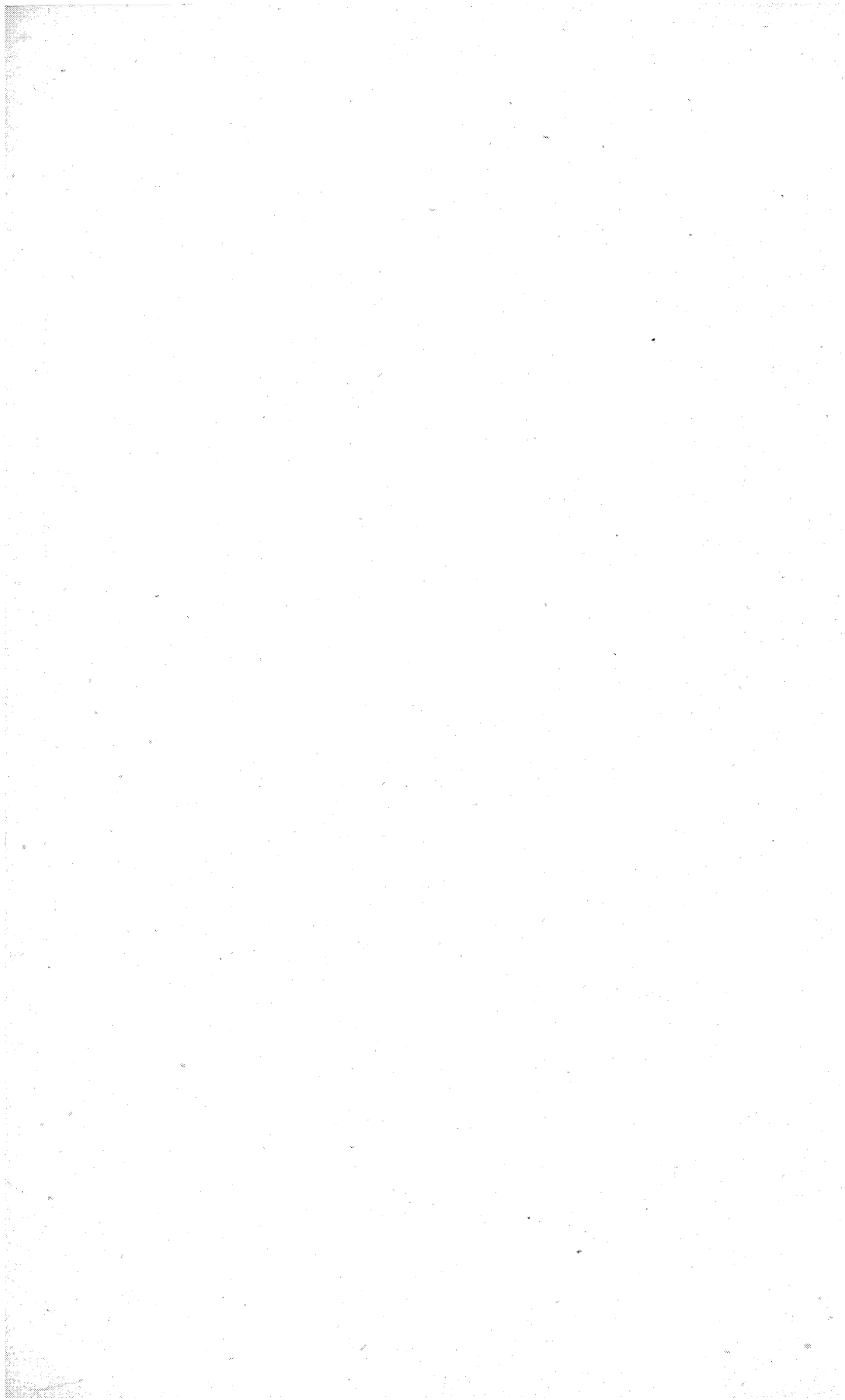
Founders Stone Coffin and Lid South Aisle, Church Langton Church.



Seals of John, Nicholas,
and Alicia de Salmer
of Church Langton.



John de Hill etc.



rectory of Langton. It appears that the two brothers as joint patrons presented Geoffrey de Newbent to the living, (he died in 1279), and also Richard de Baumfield was presented to the rectory of Langton in 1279. The living was again vacated in 1287, but at that time Sir John Latimer, Kt., was dead (ob. 1282) therefore Sir William Latimer was sole patron, and presented the living to John de Langton. Now the North and South aisles of Church Langton were built late in the thirteenth century, and I would point to these two brothers as the probable founders of the church. A third person has been suggested as a benefactor to this church, and his name indeed ought not to be forgotten, for he was a very great man of this time, a Bishop who found his Cathedral mean and left it magnificent, as Fuller says. I mean Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, Lord Treasurer of England, the prime favourite of King Edward the First, to whom the said king granted free warren here and at Thorpe Langton. Learned men have assumed that this Walter de Langton had something to do with the building of this and Thorpe Langton Church, and I apprehend that this too is probable, because he lived coeval with the two Latimers. Now I think that these gentlemen, Sir William Latimer and Sir John Latimer, were the joint founders of the church, because they lived at the time that the church was built, and at a period too when the nobility and gentry of the land erected and endowed the churches within "their capital manors," and I have no doubt that a man like Walter de Langton, who was so celebrated in adorning his Cathedral with all the splendour that the most exquisite workmanship and the most costly materials could give it, would readily lend a helping hand to complete the church in his native parish as far as he was able. The date of the north and south aisles of Langton would be about 1280. Sir William de Latimer died in 1304 (33 Edw. III.) The good Bishop lived until 1321; he was buried at Lichfield in St. Mary's Chapel of his Cathedral, which he himself had built. It has been suggested by Throsby (I believe) that the two memorial arches of the founders had effigies in the recesses. I think this is very probable, and that the effigies were placed upon the two fine alabaster flags found in the north and south aisle, which originally held a position as coverings for the stone coffins of the two founders.

November 27th, 1865.

THE REV. J. H. HILL in the chair.

Mr. John Featherstone, F.S.A., was elected a member of the Society.

Plans for the restoration of Elmsthorpe and Peckleton churches,