

TRANSLATION OF MEMORIAL TO JOHN WHITFIELD

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JOHANNES WHITFEILD Gen[erosus]

Inter Nostrates nominis apprimè celebris:

Una cum Avis JOHANNE et KATHERINA:

Necnon Parentibus HENRICO et ANNA;

Sub hoc sepultus jacet Marmore.

Vir ingenio, ut qui maximè, liberali.

Artium plurimaru[m], et reru[m] fere o[mn]ium
peritus:

Largus Pauperum Patronus:

Veri Numinis Cultor verus, et assiduus:

Patriæ præsertim Cantio, inter primos com[m]odus.

Uxorem habuit REBECCAM jun[iorem]: ROB[er]ti.
JAQUES

Dignissimi quondam CANTII Vicecomitis Filiam.

Quæ obiit Anno D[omi]ni 1685, Ætatis 36.

Hosce verò Liberos Conjugi peperit superstites

ANNAM, REBECCAM, ROBERTAM,

JOHANNEM, ROBERTUM, HENRIETTAM

John Whitfield Gentleman:

An exceedingly celebrated name among our citizens:

Together with grandparents John and Katherine;

And also parents Henry and Anne;

Under this marble here lies buried.

A man of as generous a nature as could possibly be,

Expert in several arts and in almost all things:

Liberal protector of the poor:

A true and diligent worshipper of the true God:

Among the leaders in serving his country, especially Kent.

He had as wife REBECCA younger daughter of ROBERT JAQUES

A most worthy former Sheriff of Kent.

She died Anno Domini 1685, aged 36.

She nevertheless bore her husband these surviving children

ANNE, REBECCA, ROBERTA

JOHN, ROBERT, HENRIETTA

Patri charissimos

Qui ad extinguenda hujus Urbis incendia

Quoties infeliciter opus fuerit

DUAS magnæ molis Machinas et largitus est,

Et, unde reficerentur, abunde satis legavit.

Ac

Ne pauperies laudandæ dominaretur industriæ

Centum et Quinquaginta num[m]orum libras donavit,

Et Comitiorum Cantuariensium fidei com[m]isit:

Ut, à Quinquennio in Quinquennium,

In sex pauperu[m] Artificum hujusce Civitatis usum,

Vicibus successivis,

Per omnia sine fœnore commodentur secula

Desideratissimus ILLE

Occupante tandem Apoplexia dormivit altum:

Seu potius migravit hinc expurgandus in Cœlis.

ANNO Ætatis laudabiliter peractæ LVI.

S[alutis]. instauratæ M.DC.XCI:

Beloved by their father.

For extinguishing fires in this City

As often as unfortunately it was needed,

He bestowed two machines of great size,

And also bequeathed a generous fund for getting them repaired.

And

Lest poverty should overcome praiseworthy industry,

He gave one hundred and fifty pounds

And also gave a trust to the City authorities

so that every five years,

For the benefit of six poor craftsmen of this City,

Turn and turn about,

They should be provided for, interest-free, for ever.

Missed by everyone, he

Passed to his final rest, seized at the end by a stroke:

Or rather he departed hence to wake again in heaven,

After reaching the praiseworthy age of 56.

This tomb was set up in the Year of our Salvation 1691.

WHITFIELD MEMORIAL IN ST MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH TOWER, BURGATE STREET

