



**THE BAVES OF BARROW COURT
TICKENHAM**

PENNANT REPRINTS N^o 11

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Samuel Bauf was born in Cologne in 1588. He went to Paris where he qualified as a Bachelor of Medicine. While there he had become known to the English ambassador, Sir Thomas Edmunds, and he came to England with Thomas's young son, Henry Edmunds. Both Bave, as he had now become, and young Edmunds (*who was only 15 - modern whiz kids please note*) matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford on 16th December 1620.

Samuel Bave now not only acted as tutor to Edmunds, but also qualified as a doctor of physic in 1628. He became a naturalised citizen the next year and was thus able to practice in England; and indeed did so, firstly in Gloucester and then in Bath until his death in 1688.

While in Gloucester he met and married Hester Robinson daughter of a Gloucester lawyer and alderman. They had eight children of whom Anthony is of most local interest. While by his father's will Anthony inherited the first advowsons of Chalcombe and Swainswicke (together with two feather beds - not uncommon and, as others also got two feather beds, this seemed the norm for the family), more importantly he also inherited the manor of Barrow Court, which his father had bought in 1656 but apparently did not live in.

Anthony (also an Oxford graduate) was Vicar of Tickenham for a period from 1666, after which when he moved on to Twerton. He and his wife had one child Samuel, who was born in 1672 the year before his father's death.

This Samuel -(II for necessary convenience) by his first wife Rebekah had one child, Dr Anthony Bave, who died in 1737 aged 39 and without children. By his second wife, Elizabeth, he had only a daughter. She was known as Maria and married Reuben Hollyman. By his third wife, Elizabeth Webb, he had a son Samuel (III). But Samuel III at the age of 15 died of smallpox in 1735 and is buried under a prominent slate stone in what is often called the Bave Chapel in Tickenham Church.

Thus after the death two years later of Dr Anthony Bave in 1737 it was obvious that this Bave line was ended. This may have prompted Samuel III's now widowed "inconsolable and affectionate mother" (as is recorded on it) to have erected to his memory -with space for others - the monument in the church known as the Bave Memorial. This is the only monument of its type or age in the church and was made by a Bristol architect Michael Sidnell, and probably dates from around 1740.

Recent years have not been kind to the monument. Eventually, in 1986, the Wells Conservation Centre reported:-

"The state of the monument is perilous - some elements have already been removed or fallen off. Some of the iron cramps have disintegrated with rust which has also stained the marble. There are signs of movement within the elements (*when eventually dismantled the jig saw consisted of 54 pieces and was not and is not complete*). Further there is evidence of thinner sections of marble being distorted due to the action of water soluble salts" (*there being no equivalent to a modern damp course*).

It was hardly surprising then that the archdeacon readily gave authority for the monument to be taken down.

The estimate for its restoration was well over £2000 and the small parish having already paid to have the monument made safe was distressed to find that in spite of a plea by "Moorman" of the Mercury (it was the last piece he wrote) the public was not interested. The parish therefore had to lower its sights and the St Andrew's Trust paid for it to be repaired which, while not being the same thing, was a generous and saving gesture.

Meanwhile there was an interesting hiccup in that when the monument was taken down the original Elizabethan plaster, over which it had been mounted and, as part of "Victorian" improvements, had been removed from the rest of the church was now revealed as being in a pretty parlous state. There were however a few isolated letters in black Gothic script probably part of the Magnificat which is commonly found in lady chapels which, of course, this was. It was this connection which moved the ladies of Tickenham to find the VAT to match the Trust grant.

That plasterwork was secured and the monument re-erected in midsummer 1991 but not before it had been subjected to an unnecessary trip to Wells (due to a communication failure) in the back of an open truck in the rain which further

damaged the inscription. The detail can fortunately still be read - but awaits restoration. Altogether a rather sad tale and one that is perhaps not yet ended.

Sources

<i>Poynton</i>	<i>The Baves of Bath and Barrow Court</i>	1895
<i>Byrchmore</i>	<i>Parochial History of Tickenham</i>	1895

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