

Note on a Tomb at Barrow Gurney.

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WHEN the ground nearest the church at Barrow Gurney was lately being prepared for an enlargement of the terrace and pleasure grounds of the Manor House,—an Elizabethan building, contiguous to the church, and standing on the site of the Priory,—a burial vault was found at the western end of the church, between it and the house. The church seems to have been connected originally with the Priory by means of a chapel, and it is in the floor of this chapel the interment was found. The vault is covered by a pavement of encaustic tiles, for the most part perfect, and around it, in mediæval lettering, are the words—

Dame Johanna de Acton.

The letters **M, K**, are also repeated, meaning *Maria Regina*, i.e., the Virgin Mary, to whom the Priory was dedicated. The arms on the shields (as far as can be ascertained) are those of Acton (?), Rodney, Clare, Patton (?), Berkeley, De Mohun (?); with tiles of a conventional type, having on them two birds looking towards each other, and a plant or tree between them.

A detailed account of Minchin Barrow Priory will be found in the *Proceedings* for 1863. From this it would appear that “Richard de Acton, chevalier,” gave lands and messuages in Wells and Barwegorney to the Priory, to provide a chaplain for the good of his soul, &c.; the letters patent bearing date 14th October, 1361.

Thomas de Berkeley held lands in Barrow Gurney at this date, 1361, and the Berkeley arms are also above the vault. The remains of the lady found in this tomb may perhaps be those of one related to this family.

