

The Thornbury Tombs

The tomb under the eastern arch in the north wall of the chancel is that of a knight and his lady, with recumbent effigies on an altar tomb with panelled sides, of about 1440. The knight is in full plate armour, with a finely carved girdle and collar, and wears a rich and heavy orle on his uncovered head, which rests on his great helm. His feet rest on a lion. The lady, whose arms are broken away, wears a square headdress. The tomb is probably that of Philip Thornbury, who died about 1457. Under the western arch of the same wall is another altar tomb of the late 14th century, probably that of Sir John Thornbury, who died about 1396. It has large shields in square quatrefoiled panels, alternating with niches containing small figures. One of the shields bears the arms of Thornbury. The effigies are those of a knight and lady. The former wears plate armour with a pointed basinet and a camail. The head rests on the great helm and the feet on a lion, while the head of the lady, who wears a honeycombed headdress, is supported by figures, now broken away, and her feet rest on a lap-dog. The figures are in very bad condition, the arms of both being gone, and many names being scratched upon them, but there are traces of gilding on the effigy of the knight. In the north wall of the north chapel is a tomb-recess of the 15th century.

From: 'Parishes: Little Munden', *A History of the County of Hertford*: volume 3 (1912), pp. 129-135. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43591>. Date accessed: 11 April 2008.

Sir John Thornbury was a prominent nobleman of his day, active in public life and service and with connections to royalty, from whom he received favours. He and his wife Nanerina had two children.

His son, **Philip**, was also a Member of Parliament and an associate of the leading men of his day. He made improvements to the church which included imitation of the moulding in Canterbury Cathedral.

For fuller accounts including further references see [The Protected Valley: A History of Little Munden](#) by Anne Rowe (published by Hamels, 1999, ISBN 0 9537468 0 1)



John and Nanerina Thornbury