

ANNO DOMINI MILLESIMO CCCC  
LXXXII. DIE VIGILIE PASCHALE  
SOLUS HIC SOLUS HIC SOLUS  
HIC SOLUS HIC SOLUS HIC SOLUS

BRASS OF WILLIAM LATHOM OF PARBOLD, 1532.

## TRANSACTIONS.

---

### THE MONUMENTAL BRASS OF WILLIAM LATHOM, 1532.

*By Philip Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.R.S.E., F.S.A.*

Read 18th November, 1926.

---

THE illustration which forms the frontispiece of the present volume is made from a rubbing of the monumental brass of William Lathom, who died in 1532. The brass, now in the writer's possession, was formerly in the Douglas Chapel, Parbold, and was probably removed therefrom at the time of the Great Rebellion in 1644; it was certainly not in the chapel at the date of its destruction in the mid-nineteenth century. The brass, both from its recording the building of "these three bridges," and as giving the name of William Lathom's wife Mary, is of importance, since, up to its discovery, the lady's name was unknown, while the date of William Lathom's death was previously uncertain. The original "three bridges" are now represented by the "Three bridge," a recent structure, which spans the river Douglas near the foot of Parbold Hill.

The reading of the brass is:—

Orate pro animabus Willelmi Lathom  
de Parbalt armigeri et Marie  
uxoris eius qui de bonis suis  
istos tres pontes fieri fecerunt  
Anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> CCCC xxxii<sup>o</sup>

The following extracts from two early wills are of interest in relation to the upkeep of bridges over the Douglas. In 1369 Thomas de Lathom bequeathes "ij

2 *The Monumental Brass of William Lathom, 1532.*

marcs ad pontem de Doggles"; and in 1401 Alexander Pyk devised two acres of "land in Dalton by Doggles-  
brigge to William del Skoles for life, and after his death  
toward the repair of the bridge of Doggles for ever."

The manor of Parbold, *temp.* Ric. I, was owned by Robert de Lathom and passed in 1366, by gift, from Sir Thomas de Lathom, to his son Edward. The pedigree is as follows:—

Sir Thomas de Lathom *ob.* 1370.

|  
Edward Lathom.

|  
Robert Lathom.

|  
Edward Lathom, *ob. circ.* 1473.

|  
Robert Lathom *ob.* 1516=Margaret, dau. of Wm. Norris of Speke.

|  
William Lathom *ob.* 1532=Mary . . . . .

William Lathom, at the date of his father's death in 1516, was aged 60, and at the time of his own decease in 1532, was "an old gentleman and blind,"<sup>1</sup> being aged 77 years.

<sup>1</sup> R. Stewart-Brown, *The Manor of Allerton* (1911), p. 10.