

# Broad Blunsdon The Potenger Memorial



M. S.  
 Johannis Potenger Armigeri  
 Et Philadelphiae Uxoris, merito, chariffimæ  
 Illam, Filiam Johannis Ernle Equitis aurati  
 Et scaccary Cancellary  
 Impravifa Vis Lethi rapuit  
 XII Die Aprilis  
 Anno Domini MDCXCII  
 Ætatis XXXVIII  
 Ille diu fuperstes occubuit  
 XVIII Die Decembris  
 Anno Domini MDCCXXXIII  
 Ætatis LXXXVII  
 In Negotiis Publicis probus,  
 In Otio pius  
 Erga Suos Beneficentiâ  
 Erfa Pauperes Liberalitate versatus  
 Literarum humanorum  
 Ad extremum ufq. Cultor  
 Hic juxta lloxoris delectiffimæ Cineres  
 Corpus fuum fepeliri voluit.  
 Honoris et Pietatis ergo hoc Marmor  
 Poffuit Richardus Bingham Arm:  
 Defunctorum ex unica Filia Nepos.

Sacred to the memory of John Potenger, armiger, and Philadelphia, his wife, deservedly most dear. She was the daughter of John Ernle, a Knight of the Golden Order and Chancellor of the Exchequer. An unexpected death blow struck her on the 12th day of April in the year of our Lord 1692 aged 38. He surviving her for a long time, died on the 18th day of December in the year of our Lord 1733 aged 87. He was upright in public business, concerned with active kindness towards his own family and with generosity towards the poor; until his end he was a patron of the writings on men. He wished is body to be buried next to the remains of his beloved wife.

Richard Bingham, armiger, erected this marble monument out of honour & duty, being the nephew of the only daughter of her dead parents.

Philadelphia Potenger was a member of the Ernle family who inherited the nearby Burytown estate in the 17th century. Her arms appear on the right of the shield at the top of the memorial & are still borne as a quartering by the families of Money-Kyrle of Wiltshire & Ernle-Erle-Drax of Dorset. The arms pf Potenger on the left passed down through the line of Bingham of Dorset and are still quartered by the Earls of Lucan.

The memorial was moved from the tower to its present position in November 1999. The sculptor Peter Scheemakers, came from Antwerp but lived most of his life in England. He was one of the most fashionable and prolific monumental sculptors of the mid-1700's particularly noted for his memorial to William Shakespeare in

Westminster Abbey.

Other memorials in the floor of the church record Thomas Haydock of Bury Blunsdon, who died in the early 1600's without male heirs, and his wife and daughters. They depict the arms of Ernle impaling Haydock, the estate descending to the former through the marriage of the elder daughter, and Elrington of Middlesex impaling Haycock, signifying the marriage of the younger daughter.

**Source: Broad Blunsdon St. Leonard's**