

Thomas, April 21, 1723, (44) James, September 3, 1727, and (45) Anne, February 9, 1729.

40. William Scripps (born Scrips), carpenter, baptized at Ely, September 6, 1724. On October 29, 1736, being "fourteen years of age," he received property on Broad Lane, Ely, from Sarah Plowright, a widow, probably his grandmother, and John Plowright was appointed guardian. On May 9, 1745, he sold the property on Broad Lane to John Warman. On May 19, 1746, he bought a cottage in Ely from John Plowright, and sold it again May 1, 1759 to Thomas Watkins. On April 28, 1752, he borrowed fourteen pounds on mortgage of the same property. Between 1757 and 1766, and perhaps for a longer period, he was employed on the works by the dean and chapter of Ely, and assisted in the rebuilding of the lantern of the cathedral.\* He uniformly spelled his name with the "double p," and the name

W. Scripps, Anno Dom.  
1763.

scratched in the wall in the southeast corner of Bishop Alcock's chapel in the cathedral is undoubtedly his. His grandson, Rev. John Scripps, speaking from family traditions, described him as a remarkably handsome man and a mechanic of rare skill, but somewhat dissipated in his habits. Judging from his accounts in the cathedral archives, he was a man of fair education, as he wrote a good hand and made out his accounts in a neat and business-like manner. He

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\* "To the same judicious architect (Mr. Essex) is owing that strength and security which are seen in the whole woodwork of the dome and lantern, which through long inattention were brought into a dangerous condition, the main supporters being rotted, and the whole threatening ruin by its own weight. This dangerous work was taken in hand in 1757, and a complete reparation effected in five years."—*Bentham's History of the Cathedral Church of Ely*, p. 234.