

THE TOMB OF RANULPH, LORD DACRE OF GILLESLAND,  
IN SAXTON CHURCHYARD, YORKSHIRE.

*Phot. by J. L. B.*

TO FACE P. 229.

ART. XIII.—*A Note on the tombstone of Ranulph Lord de Dacre of Gillesland in Saxton churchyard, Yorkshire.*

By THE REV. J. LOWTHER BOUCH, M.A.

*Read at Carlisle, April 27th, 1916.*

ON the north side of Saxton Church, by Towton field, stands an altar tomb of Craven limestone in memory of Ranulph Lord Dacre, who was slain in the battle of Towton, 29th of March, 1461. In 1883 the tomb, being much decayed, was repaired by the trustees of the Earl of Carlisle and a kerb was then placed round the original tomb and on it was cut the inscription from the slab and four banners or coats of arms which are placed on the four panels of the altar.

The inscription, which has been recorded by Hopkinson, Drake, Dr. Whitaker\* and T. M. Fallow,† reads as follows:—

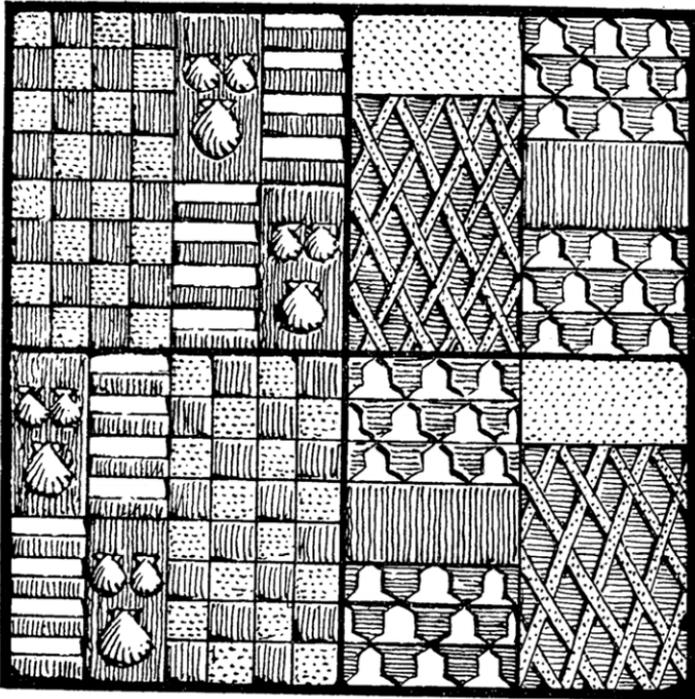
Hic Jacet Ranulph | dñs de dakar et gillesland verū miles  
 strenuus in bello | pro rege Henrico VI | anno dñi  
 M CCCC LXI XXIX die mñsi marcii, vidl dñica ramis  
 palmaru'—cu' aīe p'pciet' d<sup>8</sup> amē.

The four coats of arms or banners are 16 in. square ; that on the north is quarterly 1 and 4 chequers (or and gules) for Vaux, 2 and 3, quarterly, 1 and 4, three escallop shells (argent on gules) for Dacre, 2 and 3, eight bars (argent and gules) for de Multon, impaling quarterly 1 and 4, (azure) fretty and a chief (or), 2 and 3, vair (argent and azure), a fess (gules), being the arms of Fitz-

\* Loidis & Elmete, p. 156.

† *Yorkshire Archæological Journal*, vol. x., 1889. Articles on "the Dacre Tomb" by T. M. F., and on "the Battle of Towton" by Clements R. Markham.

hugh and Marmion ; Eleanor, Lord Dacre's wife \* was a daughter of William, Lord Fitzhugh, Marmion and St. Quentin. On the south side Vaux and Dacre quarterly (omitting de Multon) impale Fitzhugh and Marmion, and on the east and west ends the coat is Vaux and Dacre only.



ARMS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE DACRE TOMB, SAXTON.

In the accounts of the battle of Towton it is stated that there came from the north, John, Lord Clifford, Ranulph, Lord Dacre of Gillesland, Henry, Lord Fitzhugh and Sir John Neville, with a great muster of Dalesmen from the North Riding and Westmorland. Lord

\* See Dacre Pedigree, *Transactions*, n.s., vol. xi., opposite p. 258.

Dacre is said, but probably it is not correct, to have encamped with his brother-in-law, Lord Fitzhugh, on some land called the North Acres, on the Lancastrian left. Lord Clifford and Sir John Neville were both killed on the Saturday and Lord Dacre fell early in the battle on Palm Sunday. That "he had unclasped his helmet to drink a cup of wine and was shot by a boy who had concealed himself in a burr tree" is improbable, as that fate had befallen Lord Clifford the day before and the same legend has done duty for both of them.

Lord Dacre was buried with his horse; its skull was disinterred by the sexton in 1861 and the lower jaw bone was presented to the York Philosophical Museum by the Rev. S. G. M. Webb. Local tradition says Lord Dacre was buried in an upright position, and in 1787, the Vicar, the Rev. John Rogers, claimed to have dug up his skull,\* but there is no proof of the asserted position or of the identity of the owner of the skull.

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\* *Saxton Parish Registers.*