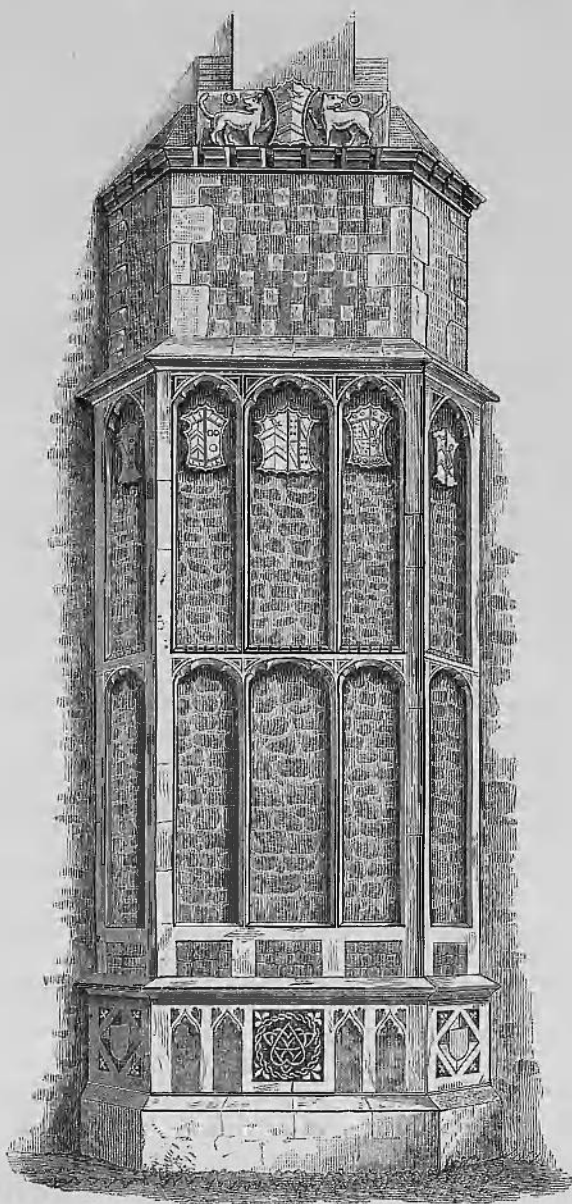


THE TYRELL CHAPEL AT GIPPING, NORFOLK.



Chimney-shaft, "Vestry" on the north side of the Chancel.

From a drawing by Mr. Watling, of East Stonham.

SIR JAMES TYRELL'S CHAPEL AT GIPPING, SUFFOLK.

By W. H. SEWELL, M.A., Yaxley, Suffolk.

GIPPING is a hamlet, with a population of fifty persons, in the county and archdeaconry of Suffolk, and in the rural deanery of Stow. It is, however, exempt from episcopal jurisdiction, being a donative.

In the district a rivulet, here called *The Gipp*, begins to flow, becoming afterwards the river Gipping, which, passing Stowmarket and Needham-market, leaves its name at Gippingwich or Ipswich, whence it flows into the Orwell, and at Harwich into the sea.

The parish of Gipping contains about 900 acres of land (chiefly owned by Mr. Charles Tyrell), and lies nearly midway between Mendlesham and Haughley, and is distant about four miles from Stowmarket, where is the mother church, and about two miles eastward from Haughley Road Station on the Great Eastern Railway. The object of chief interest is the small and beautiful fabric of the Perpendicular period, called Gipping Chapel. It is an extremely fine example of flint panel-work, or cut flint worked into the quarried stone or ashlar. The flint-work is here spread over the greater part of the four outside walls; being generally found on chief porches, and on the south side only of our Suffolk churches, usually adorning the wall-spaces between the clerestory windows.

There was, however, an older chapel than the present fabric. For at the latter part of the Decorated period we find, from the *Inquisitiones Nonarum* (as quoted in Hollingsworth's *History of Stowmarket*), that in the year 1340 there then existed a chapel at Gipping, and that its tithe was valued at 1*l*. Hollingsworth further states that the abbot and abbey of St. Osyth were possessed of the rectorial tithes, and as patrons appointed the vicar at Gipping.

The chapel is dedicated to Almighty God, in honour of

Saint Nicholas, as appears in the following extract from the will of Robert Cosyn of Stowmarket, 1474, kindly given me by my friend the Rev. C. R. Manning:—"Item, lego capelle Sci Nich'i de Gyppyng ad reficiendum et reparandum xx^s." Bury Will Office. Vol. II. fo. 565.

Beyond this fact very little is known concerning the chapel, except what is to be learnt from its inscriptions, coats of arms, and painted glass. Mr. Hollingsworth, in his *History of Stowmarket* (p. 105), gives only some thirty lines to the fabric. No information relates to it in the *Fitch Collections at Bury* or in the collections at Ipswich. The *Suffolk Collections of Davy and Jermyn* in the British Museum contain but little about Gipping. And there are no register books belonging to the chapel.

Trustworthy information is thus alone to be obtained from the chapel, which stands sheltered in a beautiful woodland retreat.

No burial appears ever to have taken place in this ground. Mr. Davy states, however, that Thomas Tyrell, Esquire, of Gipping and Wetherden, was in 1585 buried at Gipping.

The chapel was erected or thoroughly restored about A.D. 1480, judging from the style of its architecture, which is such as then prevailed. It may be assigned to the fifteen years *after* 1480, or more probably to the fifteen years *before* that date, since we know that in 1474 a small sum of money was piously left for its restoration. It seems certain that the work was done before Sir James's son, Thomas, married Margaret, daughter of Christopher Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, since their shield of arms is not found among the other shields on the chimney shaft. In fact, the fabric was brought into its present state chiefly at the expense and in the lifetime of that brave knight of slandered memory, Sir James Tyrell,¹ as may be inferred from the inscription over the vestry door:—"Pray for Sir Jamys Tirell [a knot] Dame Anne his wyf."

A stranger visiting the chapel will naturally have his atten-

¹ The writer, while attempting to discover the history of this chapel, was led to inquire into the real facts in the life of its great restorer. And in a paper read on May 11th, *ult.*, before the Society of Antiquaries, he thinks he has proved from contemporary documents (as far as

it is possible to prove a negative,) that Sir James Tyrell is not to be held guilty of the murders of the Princes in 1483, and that he cannot be shown to have been even remotely concerned in that atrocious deed.

tion first drawn to what may, perhaps, be termed a label, in stone, inscribed. The full inscription is found repeated six times on the nave and chancel; it occurs once on the north side of the nave, but without the last letter A.

There is some difficulty in deciphering the letters, and more in determining what they mean.

(1.) They were formerly read by Sir William Betham as A.M.—half an M.—and L.A., and explained by him thus:—A. for Anno; M. for 1000; half an M. for 500; L. for 50; and A. repeated for Anno, indicating the year 1550, the supposed date of the chapel, which, however, must be placed some seventy or eighty years earlier.

Again (2.), the letters have been read thus:—A. M. L. A. and on the occasion of the Archæological Institute's inspection of the chapel, on July 23, 1869, were conjectured to stand for—Ave · Maria · Lætare · Alleluia.

(3.) Since then, however, they have been supposed to be, in fact, a Hebrew charm. Some short time ago² a slip of parchment, inscribed in Hebrew characters with the letters A. G. L. A., was found in the stem of a crucifix that belonged to the Priory of Gisborne, Yorkshire. Four Hebrew words were found by the late Mr. James Yates to fit the initials:—ATE GEBUR LOULEM ADONAI—which, being interpreted, mean:—"Thou art great for ever, O Lord." Mr. Yates would accordingly consider—A M L A—to be possibly a similar Hebrew charm; and although the four characters are certainly not Hebrew, he would interpret them Hebraistically, and assign for the four initials the Hebrew words:—ATAR MELECH LEONLAU ADONAI,—meaning,—“Thou (art) king for ever, O Lord.”

With great deference to Mr. Yates, I beg to observe that this explanation appears to me somewhat forced, and in one respect without precedent; for I am not aware of any instance of a Hebrew or other charm applied to the fabric of a Christian building; yet I must acknowledge that I have myself no better interpretation to offer.

The fabric now consists of western tower, nave, chancel, and north chancel vestry.

I believe that the north chancel vestry was added some few years afterwards. It is in the same style as the rest of

² See Arch. Journ., vol. xxiv. p. 68. See also some other notices of the use of the mysterious word AGLA, *ibid.*, vol. iii. p. 359; vol. iv. p. 73.

the building, but the east wall shows on the outside an awkward joining to the chancel.

The measurements of the building in the interior are the following:—

	Length.	Breadth.	Height at central beam.
	ft.	ft.	ft.
Nave	33	18	20
Chancel	24	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vestry	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	19

The nave is lighted by three windows on the north, and by three on the south. Below the middle window on the south is the chief doorway; below the middle window on the north is a corresponding doorway, opposite the other, but now stopped up. The four larger windows have three lights, with transoms; and both the middle windows are made up of a pair of two lights, and are very skilfully grouped with the doorway below, and with the two buttresses beside them. Formerly there was an opening (still observable) in the west wall, perhaps for a window, which is now blocked by the tower. The inner roof of the nave (as well as of the chancel) is nearly flat, ceiled with plaster, and divided into square compartments. The outer roof is tiled.

The stone font at the west end of the nave has a circular bowl, which stands on an octagonal shaft, with the original square step for the priest on its west side. The sacrament of holy baptism is only rarely administered here, and the baptism is then to be registered by the Vicar of Stowmarket.

There is a little good carving on the benches—some examples of the Tyrell knot or badge. One set of the benches was placed here several years ago, having been removed in Mr. Hollingsworth's time from the Tyrell Chapel in the north aisle of Stowmarket Church.

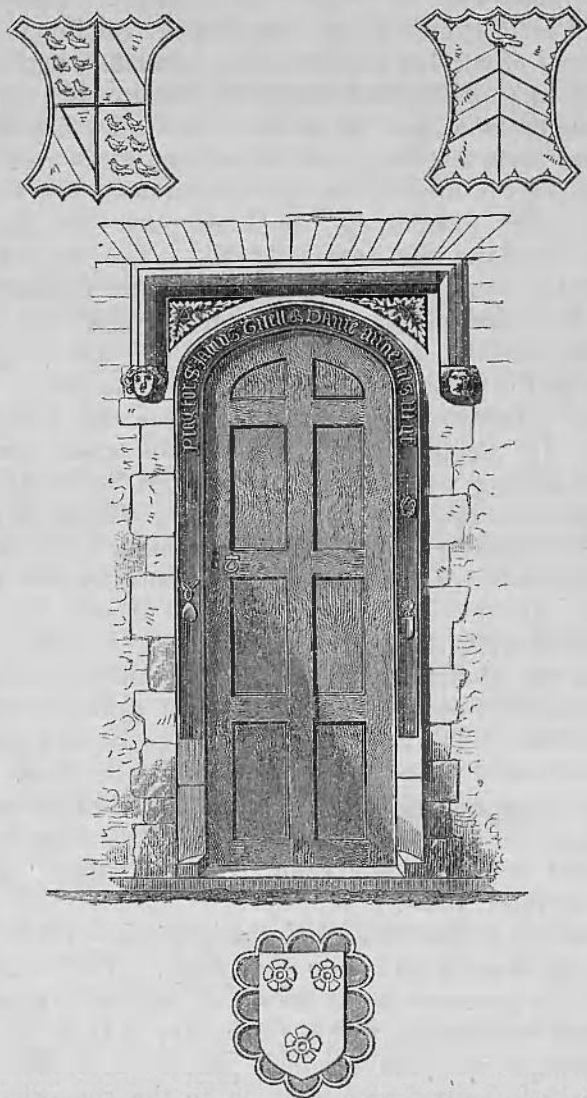
This chief part of the chancel is lighted on the south by two windows of three lights, with transoms; on the north now by one window, formerly, I believe, by two, and by a five-light east window, also with a transom.

In the east window may be seen fragments of inscriptions, and of several religious emblems. The ten upper smallest lights were once filled with angels holding shields with the emblems of the Passion of our Saviour. On one of the shields

are represented two bleeding hands, two bleeding feet, in the centre a bleeding heart. This shield of the five wounds is less frequent here than in some other districts. There is, besides, an early painting from the chapel, remaining in 1869, of the head of our Lord after death, decollated, and crowned with thorns. The panel measures 12 by $15\frac{1}{2}$ in. The east window is of ten lights, five upper and five lower, in which are some fine fragments of painted glass. The most northern of the upper five lights represents the body of a man in plate armour, of, as I suppose, the fourteenth century, perhaps Sir James Tyrell. The second upper light to the south represents an ecclesiastic reading from a book held in his left hand, with a gold ring on five fingers; red cope, jewelled; mitre jewelled on the head, and jewelled pastoral staff held in his right hand; a sable almuce around the neck. This is supposed to represent the Abbot of St. Osythe. In the third upper light to the south is a female figure, shedding tears, a radiated nimbus round the head. It is doubtless intended for the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the fourth upper light to the south is a male figure, weeping, with a nimbus. This is doubtless meant for the Beloved Disciple. In the fifth upper light is a female figure with long hair flowing down the back, reading a book, perhaps intended for Dame Anne Tyrell. In the second, third, fourth, and fifth of the lower lights the canopies are more or less perfect. The third lower light represents a peacock's tail in a boar's mouth, which is the Tyrell crest. There are many fine quarries and fragments of designs scattered throughout the window; on one piece of glass the following words are scratched:—"Edm^d Tyrell Patron · Richard Chilton Curate · 1756."

A doorway to the west of the only window on the north side of the chancel leads into the vestry. The chancel wall west of the doorway bears traces of a former opening of some kind, measuring, within the vestry, 3 ft. 6 in. by 6 ft. This perhaps was the original priests' door, before the present north vestry was built on to the somewhat older chancel wall. This small room is termed a vestry because it is now used as such. Mr. Hollingsworth (*Hist. Stowmarket*, p. 105) considers that "it cannot have been intended as a vestry." I merely use the term for convenience, and do not wish to prejudge the matter. I have found no

THE TYRELL CHAPEL AT GIPPING, SUFFOLK.



Doorway, west side of the Vestry.

From a drawing by Mr. Watling, of East Stenham.

piscina, the usual token of a chapel, nor any other distinctive features to lead me to conjecture a definite use.

No interment appears to have taken place in the vestry or in any part of the chancel or the nave. The vestry is lighted by a fine east window of four lights. In the opposite (W) wall is a corresponding window-bay, now stopped up. In the north end is a stone fireplace, originally measuring five feet six inches across, and four feet high. Close by the chancel wall in the west side of the vestry is a doorway leading outside. Over the door in the moulding is the inscription:—"Pray for Sr Jamys Tyrell · Dame Anne his wyf." In the right spandril above the door is the Tyrell badge; and in the left spandril two hearts entwined.

When any such inscription as this referred to a deceased person, it invariably, I believe, was worded, Pray for "the soul of" so and so. When, however, it was set up in a person's own lifetime, it ran, Pray for "the good estate of," or simply, Pray "for" such a person. From the wording, therefore, of this inscription, we should certainly conclude that it was placed where we find it in the lifetime of that brave captain of injured memory, Sir James Tyrell, Knight-Banneret.

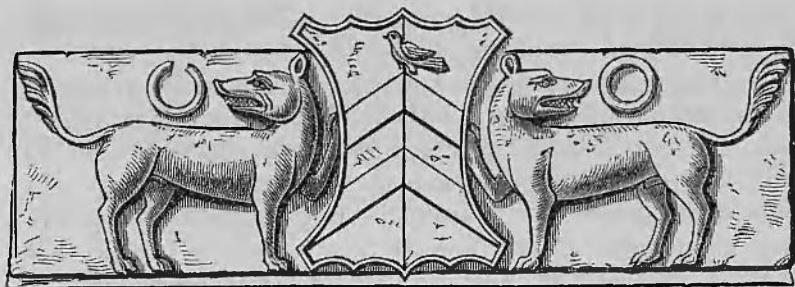
Notwithstanding the modern addition of a small square flue, the fine old chimney shaft of the vestry, on the outside, must excite the admiration of every beholder. The shaft is built in the form of a bay; and its window-like compartments, filled with cut flint, contain five shields, one at the top of each division, all being surmounted by a shield of the Tyrell arms with supporters. The explanation of the heraldry will be rendered more intelligible by the accompanying portion of the Tyrell pedigree, which I have collected from Berry's *Essex Genealogies*.

(1.) *Tyrell with supporters.* Arms—argent, two chevrons azure within a bordure engrailed gules. Crest—a boar's head, erect, argent, out of the mouth a peacock's tail ppr. Supporters—two tigers regardant ppr. Motto—Sans crainte. The dignity of knight-banneret was originally conferred on such gentlemen as had signalized their valour in two royal battles; and such knights were allowed to display their arms as barons did, and to bear arms *with supporters*, as in this instance.

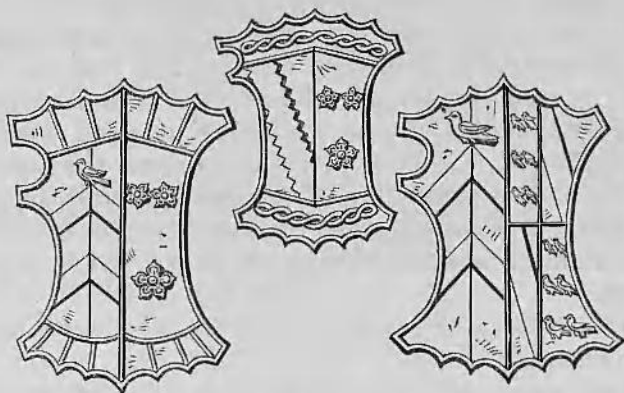
(2.) Clopton impaling Darcy.

(3.) Tyrell impaling Darcy, Sir James's mother, whose Christian name Margaret is to be seen among the fragments of glass in the east window. For difference, see *Archaeol.* i. 382.

THE TYRELL CHAPEL AT GIPPING, SUFFOLK.



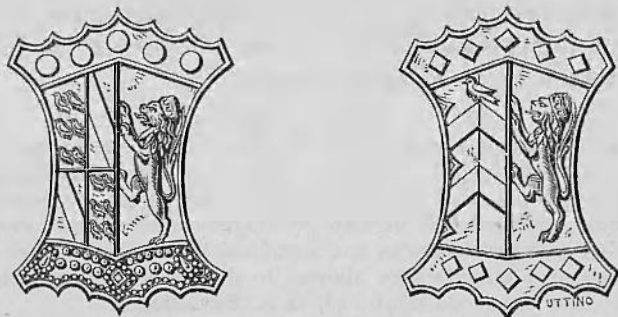
1. Tyrell, with supporters.



3. Tyrell impaling Darcy.

2. Clopton impaling Darcy.

4. Tyrell, impaling Arundell.



5. Arundell and Carminow, impaling Marney.

6. Tyrell, impaling Marney.

Escutcheons of arms on the Chimney-shaft.

(4.) Sir James Tyrell impaling the arms of Anne Arundell his wife, viz., quarterly, 1 and 4, azure, a bend or ; 2 and 3, sable, six swallows argent.

(5.) Arundel and Carminow impaling, according to Mr. Almack, what is intended for Marney.

(6.) Tyrell impaling Marney, Sir James's uncle and aunt, of Heron, Essex.

On the south-east buttress of the chancel the Tyrell shield is again to be observed ; and on the north-east buttress that of Arundell quartering Carminow, an ancient Cornish family.³ Above it is an old French motto, Groyne (or Groyue ?) que vodroy, meaning "Let him complain who will."⁴ This may be found to be a motto of the Arundells, Dame Anne Tyrell's family.

On a south buttress of the chancel is a shield bearing the Darcy arms. There are also many graceful monograms, rebuses, and badges scattered profusely about the flint framework. Amongst these may be mentioned the following, I and T for James Tyrell—D and A (in two hearts) for Dame Anne—the letters I and S, probably for James. Also the sacred monogram for JESUS,—Maria in a monogram of M., and a very elaborate monogram, occurring once only, containing the Tyrell knot or badge, resembling the *triquetra*, or semicircles interlaced, combined with the letters W, A, and perhaps also the letter T.

On the north side of the nave, over the door which is stopped up, in a wheel-like design, are the letters—G—and T—a monogram of I and S, combined,—and the letter R. And here I leave my reader to discover some interpretation of these initials, more probable, yet not more fitting to conclude with than—

"Gratias Tibi JESU Reddo."

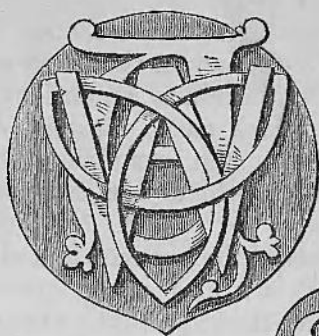
I return to Thee thanks, O Jesus.

The reader is indebted to my courteous correspondent, Mr. Charles Tyrell, jun., of the Plashwood, near Gipping, for allowing this description to be illustrated from the accurate drawings of the chapel, made in the year 1869 by the master of the Earl Stonham village school, Mr. Watling. And my own thanks are due to Mr. Almack, of Long Melford, for his kind and promptly rendered assistance in the heraldry.

³ See Lysons' Cornwall, p. cxxv.—vi.

⁴ *Groigner*, *grongnier*, &c., *gronder*, *murmurer*, in Lat. *grunnire*, Roquefort.

The motto may possibly convey some allusion to the boar's head crest.



Croque que bodron



Monograms, and French Motto.

From drawings by Mr. Watling of East Stonham.

SIR JOHN TYRELL of Heron, Essex, Knight
 Sheriff, 1423, of Essex and Herts.

— Alice, 2nd dau. and coheir of Sir William Coggeshall, Knight,
 of Little Sandford, Co. Essex; by Antiocha his wife, dau.
 of Sir John Hawkwood, Knt. Died 1492; buried at East
 Hornden, Co. Essex.

Eldest son.			3rd son.		2nd son.						
Sir Thomas Tyrell, of Heron, Knt. Died 28 Mar. 1476. Left a long will. (Doctor's Commons.)			Emma, dau. of Sir Wm. Marney, of Layer Marney, Essex. or of John Marney, Esq.		Sir Wm. Tyrell of Beeches, Knt. Married twice and left issue. Left a very long will dated 16 Mar. 49 H. 6. (D.C.)						
(Shield 5 on the chimney shaft.)			(Shield 2 on the chimney shaft.)								
Eldest son.			2nd son.		3rd son.			4th son.		5th son.	
Sir Wm. Tyrell, Knt., d. in father's lifetime.			Eleanor, dau. of Robt. Darcy of Maldon aforesaid. Her portrait is in Long Melford Church.		Thomas, Esq., of South Kirton, Suffolk. 1st husband.			Elizabeth 2nd dau. and coh. of Sir Hy. Bruin, Knt. Re-married Sir Wm. Brandon, by whom she had issue Sir Charles Brandon, K.G. Created Duke of Suffolk, A.D. 1514.		Humphrey, Esq., of Warley, Essex.	
					Elizabeth, dau. and coh. of John Wallwyn of Longford, county Hereford, Esq.			Sir Robert, Knt., married and left issue.		Sir James TYRELL, Knt., was an Esq., 1474; made a Knt. Banneret 4 July, 1482; beheaded (so called) treason, 6 May, 1502.	
					(Shield 4 on chimney shaft.)						
					ANNE, dau. of Sir John Arundell, of Lanherne, co. Cornwall, Knt.			Sir Thomas, Knt., an Esq., and Master of the Horse / R. 3. \ Corona / 6 July, 1483; knight bachelor, 20 June, 1487.		Edward. John. John.	
					2nd son.			3rd son.		4th son.	

Sir Thomas, æt. 23 at his grand-
 father's death, whom he suc-
 ceeded. Escheat. ac. 16 Ed. 4,
 n. 31, and so on with the
 Heron Branch.

ARMS.

Argent, two chevrons azure within a bordure
 engrailed gules.

Crest, a boar's head, erect, argent; out of the
 mouth a peacock's tail ppr.

(See Berry, Essex Geneal. p. 57.)

Eldest son.		2nd son.		3rd son.	
Thomas, of Gipping, re-instated in 1507, made a Knt.-banneret in 1513; was master of Queen's horse in 1520.		Margaret, dau. of Christopher Ld. Willoughby d'Eresby.		James, of Columbine Hall, Stowmarket. Will dated, 1533.	
John, of Gipping, knighted 2 Oct. 1553, died 1573.		— Eliz., dau. of Sir John Munday, Ld. Mayor of London, 1522.		Ann, dau. and coh. of John of Columbine Hall,	
Eldest.		2nd son.		3rd son.	
John, of Gipping, Knt., married twice, died 1591, s.p.		Thomas, of Gipping and Wetherden, Esq.; married and left issue; buried at Gipping (Davy) in 1585.		Edward, Knt., a pensioner to Queen Elizabeth; married and left issue.	