

Williamus Prestwick mundi vana culmina plangens; laqueus tunc



frater duobus doctum periculis in cultus detrahit

inter membra et hinc membra; et membra membra; delecta hinc lux prima non membris

silens enim factus vultus plus corde voluit; supra hinc factus tanto quia pro



UTTING

I Feck

A.D. 1436. 14th Henry VI

DEAN WILLIAM PRESTWICK.

WARBLETON CHURCH, SUSSEX

ILLUSTRATIONS
OF
THE MONUMENTAL BRASSES OF SUSSEX.

By MR. MARK ANTONY LOWER.

READ AT BRIGHTON, JULY 3, 1849.

THE county of Sussex is remarkable for the number and variety of its sepulchral monuments. Beginning with the shapeless hillocks upon the fair summits of our Downs, beneath which, in their inverted urns, repose the ashes of the mighty of an unrecorded era, and gradually descending to the better understood, though nameless, memorials of the conquerors of the world, we at length arrive at the period when sculptured stones indicate the "narrow house" of an illustrious Gundrada and a princely Magnus, and when "eternal brass" points to the common lot from which even a De Braose, invested with all the dignity of feudal power, or a Nelond, possessed of a plenitude of ecclesiastical influence, could claim no exemption. All the various descriptions of our monumental remains deserve a fuller illustration than they have yet received; and it seems desirable that members of our Society should give their best attention to the production of a regular and connected account of them, under the respective heads of Tumuli, Gravestones, Brasses, Altar-tombs, &c. &c. Under this impression I beg to offer, as my contribution to the general object, brief notices of those beautiful relics of medieval art—the Monumental Brasses of the county.

The accurate illustrations (obligingly contributed by the Rev. C. Boutell, from his work 'The Monumental Brasses of England'), which accompany these observations, will render a technical account of the brasses unnecessary; and my duty will be simply to notice their features in general terms, and to give such particulars concerning the personal history of the individuals commemorated as I may be enabled to procure.

No. 1. *William Prestwick*—WARBLETON.

This fine brass lies on the floor of the chancel. The figure, which is admirably executed, is somewhat remarkable, as exhibiting upon the edges of the sacerdotal vestment a quotation from the book of Job, ch. 18, v. 25, 26 :—“**Credo quod Redemptor meus bibit,**” &c. ; and the beautiful crocketed canopy terminates in a finial, composed of a pelican feeding her young with her own blood, with the motto on a scroll—“**Sic Xps dilexit nos.**” The surrounding legend is now imperfect, though a copy of it, as it existed when entire, is in the possession of the Rev. B. T. H. Cole. It is in Leonine hexameters, thus :—

“*Willius Prestwijk mundi vaga culmina plausus
Linguens nunc [jacet hic sub duro marmore clausus
Vir constans paciens humilis devotus amenus
Justiciam faciens Xpm(?) luct omnis egenus]
Clerus eum flebit vulgus plus corde dolebit
Curia lugebit tanto quia patre carebit
Probidus ille fuit consultis norma morum
Prodolor ecce ruit pater et tutor minimorum
Extensis membris behit hinc lux prima Nobembris
[Anno millesimo qua]ter C. ter duodeno
Totum peccamen sibi Christus deleat.—Amen.”*

Leaving the fleeting honours of this world, to die,
Beneath this marble hard doth William Prestwick lie ;
A constant, patient, humble man, devout, urbane,
And just to all. The poor a mighty loss sustain.
Clergy will weep, and common people deeply mourn,
So great a father from his much-loved college torn ;
This rule of holy life, the weakest men's defence,
This man of counsels wise, alas ! is hurried hence.
His outstretched corse lies buried here ; his vital breath
November's earliest-coming morn exchanged for death,
When fourteen hundred years their course had gone about,
And three times twelve. May Christ his every sin blot out.—Amen.

Of the history of this so highly-eulogised personage very little is known. That his father's name was John, and his mother's Joan, is all that I have been enabled to glean respecting his parentage and family. This information is derived from a brass plate which, when a lad of fourteen, I was so fortunate as to discover among some rubbish in the church. It is now deposited in the parish chest. The plate is inscribed—



c A.D. 1395, 18th Richard II.

SIR . . DALYNGRUGGE AND LADY.
FLETCHING CHURCH, SUSSEX

“Orate pro animabus Johannis Prestwijk, p(at)ris Willielmi Prestwijk, Clerici, & Johanne consortis sue, m(at)ris predicti Willielmus Prestwijk. Quorum animabus propiciet deus. Amen.”

“Pray for the souls of John Prestwick, father of William Prestwick, clerk, and Joan, his wife, mother of the said William Prestwick. To whose souls God be merciful. Amen.”

An erroneous impression prevails that Prestwick was Prior of Warbleton. The office which he held, however, was that of Dean of the College of St. Mary within the castle of Hastings. In the list of deans of that establishment, given by Tanner, his name follows that of William Tanfeild, who was dean in the year 1415. Tanner does not attach any date to the name of Prestwick, but as he mentions William Walesby as his successor, in 1436 (the year indicated upon the monument), there can be no doubt of the identity of the subject of this notice with the official in question.

Why Prestwick chose Warbleton Church in preference to own College chapel as his burial-place, does not appear. It is not improbable that he had a residence in the parish, as there is a house still known as the *Deanery*.

No. 2. The Dalyngrugge Knight and Lady—

FLETCHING.

This beautiful brass lies on an altar-tomb in the south transept of Fletching Church, and, but for its heraldic accompaniments, would be unappropriated, as there are no remains of an inscription. The surcote of the knight displays, however, the engrailed cross of the once influential family of Dalegrigg, Dalegrugge, or Dalyngruge; while the same coat accompanied by its crest, a unicorn's head, upon a helmet, carved in stone, is affixed to the wall at the back of the tomb. The costume of both figures fixes the date of the monument to the latter part of the reign of Richard II, about the year 1395.

The family of Dalyngrugge seem to have been indigenous to the county of Sussex, and to have derived their surname

from the manor of Dalingridge, in the parish of West Hothly. According to a pedigree in the Burrell manuscripts (5711), it appears that John Dalyngruge married Joane, daughter and coheir of Sir Walter de la Lynde, of Bolebroke, in the parish of Hartfield, where an embattled tower, part of the ancient residence, remains. From the pedigree alluded to, it seems that this John Dalyngruge was living 13 Edw. II. In the *Inquisitiones post mortem* of 9 Edw. III, this personage and Joane his wife are mentioned as possessors of a moiety of the manor of Leysceby, co. Lincoln. Their son, Sir Roger Dalingruge, was sheriff of Sussex 46 Edw. III. His son, Sir Edward, married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir John Wardeux, and, jure uxoris, became lord of the manor of Bodiham. In 9th Richard II he obtained royal letters patent for building Bodiham Castle. His son, Sir John Dalingruge, died without issue, leaving two sisters and coheirs—Philippa, wife of Sir Thomas Lewknor, and Margaret, wife of Sir Thomas Sackville, whose son, Edward, released his claim to a moiety of Bodiham, and thus the castle and its appurtenances remained to the Lewknors.

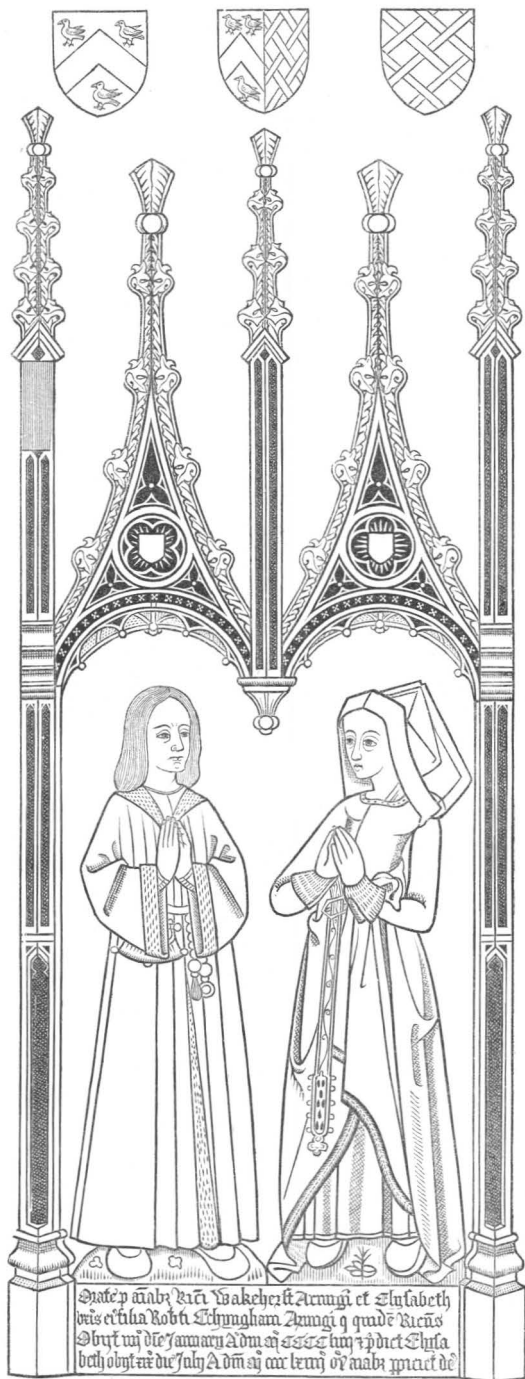
The Fletching brass, however, belonged to another (and probably the senior) branch of the family. In the Cotton MSS. (Vesp. F. xv, fol. 53) there is a charter, in French, of Walter Dalingrigge, Esq., relative to a dispute in Westehetheleghe (West Hothly), settled by the arbitration of John Conyers and Robert Tyrwhitt, who had been chosen for that purpose by the Earl of Arundel. This instrument was dated in the Chapterhouse of Lewes, 20th Feb., 17 Richard II, 1394. Assuming with Mr. Boutell, that the date of the brass is 1395, this Walter Dalyngruge may be the person commemorated.

To show the connexion of this family with the parish of Fletching, it will suffice to observe, that by an inquisition taken after the death of Richard Dalyngrigge, in 10 Edward IV, he appears to have held the following manors, &c., in Sussex :

“*Sheffield*,” as of the honour of Leicester (qy. Lancaster?) (Sheffield Place was doubtless the residence of this branch.)

“*Dalyngrigge*” (the original seat).

“*Bolbroke*,” a manor derived from the De la Lyndes. This supports my conjecture, that this, and not the Bodiham branch, was the elder line of the family.



1 Foot

A.D. 1461. 4th Edw. IV.

RICHARD WAKEHERST, Esquire, AND ELIZABETH HIS WIFE.

ARDINGLY CHURCH, SUSSEX

He also held "Wanyngore, Ifford, Warpesborne (Wapsbourn), Worth, Radyngden (Rottingdean), Iden, Wyltyng (Wilting), Holyngton (Hollington)," together with a member of each of the honours of Lewes, Hastings, and Aquila (i. e. Pevensey).

A good pedigree of the family, uniting these various branches, is a desideratum worthy of the labours of the Sussex genealogist.

No. 3. **Richard Wakeherst**, Esq., and **Elizabeth**, his wife,—
ARDINGLY.

Our first example of Sussex brasses was a noble memorial of an ecclesiastic; our second, that of a married knight; and the present is an equally interesting one of a civilian and his lady, in the picturesque costume of their day.

The inscription is as follows:

"Orate p(ro) a(n)i(m)abus Ric(ard)i Wakeherst, Armig(er)i, et Elysabeth vx(or)is ej(us), filiae Rob(er)ti Echyngham, Armig(er)i, q(ui) quide(m) Ric(ard)us obiit iiii^o die Januarij Anno d(omi)ni M.CCCC.liij, & p(rae)dict(a) Elysabeth obiit xix^o die Julij, Anno d(omi)ni M.CCCC.lxiiij: q(uo)r(um) animabus p(ro)piciet(ur) de(us)."

"Pray for the souls of Richard Wakeherst, Esquire, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Robert Echingham, Esquire, the which Richard died the 4th day of January, A.D. 1453, and the aforesaid Elizabeth died the 19th day of July, A.D. 1464: on whose souls may God have mercy."

Above the canopy are three shields of arms.

1. Argent, a chevron between three doves, gules. *Wakeherst*.
2. *Wakeherst* impaling *Echingham*.
3. Azure, a fret argent. *Echingham*.

The name of Wakeherst belongs to the class designated *local*, being derived from an estate so called in the parish of Ardingly. The family was of considerable antiquity and influence. Richard de Wakeherst, who appears as a considerable tax-payer in 1296, (see p. 306,) according to some

authorities, accompanied Edward I in his expedition against Scotland, A.D. 1300, and was knighted at the memorable siege of Carlaverock, his coat-armour being "Argent, a cheveron between three doves, gules." His descendants flourished as lords of the manor of Wakeherst for several generations, and formed alliances with the Sackvilles, and several other eminent county families. Giles de Wakeherst was living in 6 Henry IV. His son, Richard Wakeherst, sen., who was assigned, by royal writ, to have the custody of the peace for the county of Sussex, in 1430, was father of Richard Wakeherst, the gentleman commemorated by the brass—the last heir male of the family.

By an undated *Inq. post mort.* of temp. Henry VI, this Richard Wakeherst appears to have held "for the church of Arundell," ad quod damnum, one messuage and 200 acres of land at Erthinglegh (Ardingly). He married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Echingham, Esq., and dying 33 Henry VI, left three daughters and coheirs. Of these, Anne married John Gaynsford, Esq., of Crowhurst, co. Surrey. The other two married into the family of the once "*ubiquitous*," but now extinct, Culpepers, of whom John Philipot, the editor of Camden's 'Remaines,' records the remarkable fact, that "there were at one time twelve knights and baronets alive of this house together." Margaret married Richard Culpeper, Esq., and is buried with her husband beneath another brass in this church. They had no issue. Elizabeth married Nicholas Culpeper, a younger brother of Richard, and conveyed Wakeherst to his family. He died in 1510, and is also buried at Ardingly, beneath a brass, which represents figures of himself, his wife, and their eighteen children. The Culpepers, who subsequently obtained a baronetcy, remained in possession of the estate for upwards of two centuries, and became extinct in 1740.