

Archæologia Cantiana.

BRASSES IN BARHAM CHURCH.

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IN 1916 certain brasses were found at Barham in the North transept and I furnished a note of the discovery to the thirty-second volume of these Transactions (*Arch. Cantiana*, XXXII., lx.)

At that time, and for some time after, the transept was blocked by mean deal pews, which had been placed there during the Dering ownership of Barham Court. Matters have improved since Mr. Stainton has owned the Court, to which this transept belongs. The pews are cleared out, and the slabs of the brasses are now to be seen, and Mr. Stainton has already replaced the man in armour and his widow in their proper slab. The headless civilian is still on the north wall, but it is understood that Mr. Stainton is quite willing to have it replaced in its slab if he is advised that the slab itself is not too much worn to admit of it. All Antiquaries will be grateful to Mr. Stainton for what he has done already.

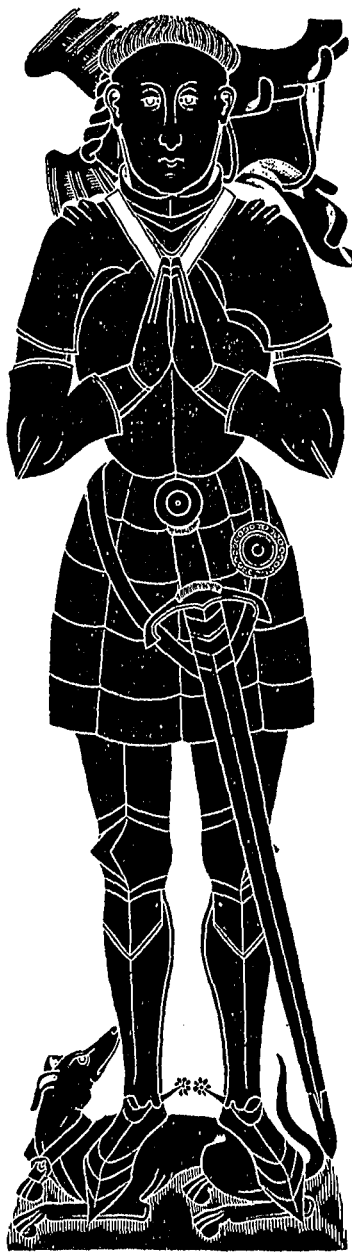
It is not necessary to repeat what was said in the note referred to, but the brasses themselves demand further discussion. It must, however, be premised that the illustrations of the brasses at Barham now given were prepared from rubbings, made when they were attached to the wall.¹ As there are no inscriptions to indicate who these brasses are intended to represent, the only way to proceed is by induction; and the first step in that direction must be to decide from the dress or the armour represented what the approximate date is. To do this a careful description of both brasses has to be given.

¹ The Society is indebted to its Treasurer, Mr. Stokes, for the excellent rubbings from which the blocks have been prepared.



ROGER DIGGES, 1375.
BARHAM, KENT.
(About one-seventh of full size.)

Taking first the civilian, whose head has nearly all been lost, we observe that he is wearing a close fitting tunic, which reaches below the knees, and has a number of buttons in the front which come down rather below the waist and extend upwards towards the throat; and it is to be assumed that the upper garment hides still more. The tunic is further confined at the waist by a plain belt, probably of leather, with a buckle and a long end, which is tucked over the belt on the sinister side, and hangs down, showing an ornamented end possibly of metal. On the dexter hip is clearly seen the loop which supports a short weapon known as a basilard or anelace, with crossed top, in its scabbard with the chape at the end. The sleeves of the tunic are tight to the arm, and come nearly to the wrist, where however the tighter sleeves of an under garment, buttoned below, appear. These under sleeves extend over the hands nearly to the knuckles in form of a gauntlet. The shoes are pointed, and are laced on the inside. Over the tunic is a loose mantle, buttoned on the dexter shoulder by three buttons and thrown over the sinister arm so as to fold over the chest. This mantle falls down well below the tunic nearly to the ankles, but, not coming very high up in the neck, allows the tunic and a hood to appear above. Unluckily, though a short pointed beard can still be seen, nothing remains to indicate the general cut of the hair, a matter which often gives a very useful guide as to date. Looking at the figure as a whole we cannot but admire the artistic way in which, by a few broad lines, the striking result arrived at has been attained, a result worthy of the fourteenth century, to which indeed this fine figure must be assigned. There is nothing in Kentish brasses to compare it with, as all the effigies of the fourteenth century in Kent are half-figures, and this is the earliest whole length figure in the county, and a notable addition, therefore, to the general collection, since the earliest one previously known is that at Downe, considerably later and considerably smaller, being complete but $15\frac{1}{4}$ by 4 inches, whereas the mutilated figure at Barham is no less than $42\frac{1}{2}$ by $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The only exactly dated effigy to which this can be compared is



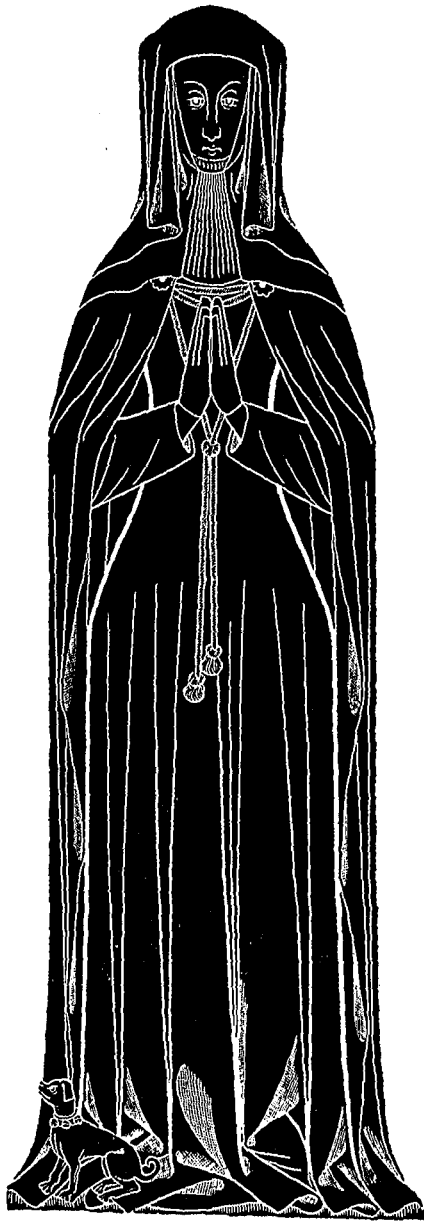
JOHN DIGGES, c. 1460.

BARHAM, KENT.

(About one-sixth of full size.)

Robert Attelath, 1376, once at King's Lynn, and, that being a Flemish artist's work, the similarity is not so striking as to the brasses of a civilian at Shottesbrooke, Berks., c. 1370, Simon de Felbrig at Fellbrig, Norfolk, attributed to c. 1380, and a civilian at King's Somborne, Hants., c. 1380. There is a kneeling effigy of Robert de Parys at Hildersham, Cambs., which can be dated exactly at 1379, and which has numerous points of resemblance to the effigy at Barham. It is safe, therefore, to assign to this fine effigy a date about 1375.

The man in armour is in complete plate armour of a simple style which is in marked contrast to the somewhat flamboyant style well shown on the brass at Preston next Faversham (now nearly destroyed by foolish over polishing) to William Mareys, 1459. The arms, the shoulders, and the body are protected by armour very like that depicted at Hoo St. Werburgh on the brass to Thomas Cobham, 1465, but the figure at Barham must be somewhat earlier because he still has the skirt of taces five in number, each formed of separate curved plates, in contrast, in this respect, to the brass at Ulcombe now identified as John St. Leger, 1442. This interesting variation may be possibly the result of making the skirt of lamboys or laminated hoops fastened by sliding rivets, in this regard anticipating a much later development in the armour round the thighs, shewn in the extraordinary figure of Sir William Scott, 1524, at Brabourne. The change no doubt soon led to the alteration shewn at Hoo in 1465, where the lower taces have disappeared and have been replaced by pointed tuiles. There is at Crowhurst in Surrey a close parallel in regard to these taces in a brass of John Gaynesford, Esq., 1450, fully described in Mr. Mill Stephenson's account in his *List of Monumental Brasses in Surrey*, p. 155, which he ascribes to the same workshop as the effigy at Ulcombe, 1442. At Barham, the position of sword, which looks more cumbrous than that at Crowhurst (and in this respect more resembles the sword at Hoo, where the sword-belt is also fastened to one of the taces by a large rosette) tends to shew that the effigy at Barham is rather later than that at Crowhurst. The



JOAN, WIDOW OF JOHN DIGGES, c. 1360.
BARHAM, KENT.
(About one-sixth of full size.)

arrangement of the neck armour also differs, as there is a collar of plate all round the neck with a point in front, which met the vizor when lowered. The effigy at Barham also has a livery collar round the neck. On the whole evidence furnished by the armour a date between 1455 and 1460 can with some confidence be assigned to the memorial. It may be noted that at Crowhurst there is a man in armour dated 1460 practically identical with the one at Hoo dated 1465. In both cases as at Barham the hands are bare and the hair short.

Proceeding now to the effigy of the lady, it is seen to be practically identical with the attractive effigy of Maud Cobham, the widow of Thomas Cobham, as shown on the brass at Hoo. Earlier presentations of the widow's dress can be seen on the brass at Dartford of Agnes Molyngton, 1454, and at Bobbing, worn by Dame Joan Savage on the brass laid down pursuant to the will of her son, Sir Arnald Savage (who died in 1420) to his father, Sir Arnald Savage, the Speaker, who died in 1410. The persistence of the widow's costume is noticeable. It is clear then that while the effigy of the lady does not enable the brass to be dated closely, it in no way conflicts with the view derived from the armour of the husband.

The earliest notice of the monuments in Barham occurs in Weever (p. 267 of the 1631 edition) but he does not report any inscription that can apply to the civilian. He transcribes one for Sir John Digge, knight, and Joane, his wife, which seems to be dated 1503, too late for the man in armour and his widow. There only remains one that he ascribes to John Digge and Joane, his wife, which he thus reproduces

In cineres stratus iacet hic John Digge vocitatus
 Coniuge [cui] grata Iohanna consociata.
 Milicie nata, de stirpe fuit memorata
 Spiritibus quorum faveat Deus ipse Deorum
 [Quæ] pax solamen reminiscunt verius : Amen¹

¹ Words in brackets supplied from Weever's original MS, now in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries. Weever got his information through Philipot from Glover's notes.

This is not very helpful. The Rev. Philip Parsons, whose book published in 1794 has admirably preserved many inscriptions in the churches round Wye, unfortunately did not visit Barham himself, and only reports the inscriptions at second hand, as he got them from the Rev. Montague Davis, who appears to have echoed the statements in the third volume of Hasted, published in 1790. He thinks the civilian is an ecclesiastic and of the other brass he says it is the north chancel on a black marble, much defaced, but formerly decorated with coats of arms and other ornaments in brass.

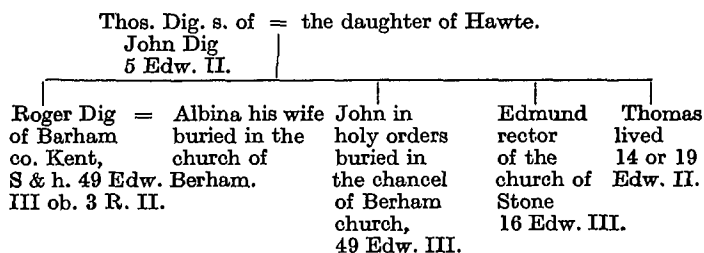
Hasted (Vol. III., p. 758) notes "in the north sept" on the pavement "three flat stones without inscriptions: on one is the figure of a priest in brass, on another the figures of an armed knight (his feet on a greyhound) and his wife. Arms—a cross quartering 6 lozenges, 3 and 3." He does not mention what Mr. Davis had noticed, that the feet of the ecclesiastic were on a dog, but he does give the arms which Mr. Davis reports as gone, and Hasted also states that the chapel was dedicated to St. Giles and some of the family of Diggs were buried in it; but this statement as to dedication is quite unsupported by evidence and in fact is contradicted by Hasted himself, who, in a note on page 756 of the same volume, remarks that John Diggs who died 1503 directed his own burial "in the chapel of our Lady on the north side of the church of Barham." It must be taken then that this dedication to St. Giles is a mere slip of Hasted's.¹

Having regard to all this it is not very rash to suggest that both these brasses in the north transept were put down to members of the Digges family. If this assumption is correct, it seems to follow pretty easily that the civilian is Roger Digges whose death can be exactly fixed from the Inquisition after his death as having taken place on the 4th September, 1375.

It may be as well in this place to insert a portion of a carefully drawn pedigree derived "from the evidences of Sir

¹ Mr. Hussey assures me that there is no foundation for it and the dedication to our Lady is clear from many Barham wills.

Dudley Digges" which is to be found in a MS. at the British Museum, which was bought by Thos. Willement, F.S.A., from Barak Longmate, Jan 14, 1830. At Mr. Willement's sale about 1865 it was bought by Boone, the bookseller, who sold it to the British Museum, 8th July, 1865. It is now Add. MS. 26758. It has in it the book plate of Warburton, the Somerset Herald, so must have been in his library. The entry on pencil folio 5, being translated, reads:—



This piece of pedigree can be checked in a measure though nothing that I have found confirms the attribution to Roger Dig of a brother Thomas. As to Edmund, to whom the date 16 Edw. III is assigned, he no doubt is the Edmund called Master Edmund de Berham, rector of Stone in the *Registrum Roffense* in 1346 who appears in 1352 as an official of the diocese of Rochester to choose notaries and in 1358 has a license to choose his own confessor.

Roger Dig or Digge or Digges (for the name is spelt in all these ways) was a very prominent man in his time in Kent, who was on numerous commissions, viz., of the peace 1368, 1370, 1374; of sewers and of Romney Marsh at various dates between 1369 and July 18th, 1375; of Rochester Bridge, 1369; of array, 1370; oyer and terminer, 1374; to sell useless royal property, 1374. These were all in Kent but he was also on a commission in Essex under date November 4th, 1371.

On January 26th, 1369, he has an exemption from being put on assizes, juries or recognitions and from being mayor, sheriff, eschætor, coroner or other King's bailiff or minister against his will, and in the same year on May 5th, John Fromond going to Ireland on the King's business in the

company of Wm. de Wyndesore has letters nominating Roger Dygge as one of his attornies.

In October of the same year there is a commission to Ralph Spigurnell, constable of Dover Castle and warden of the cinque ports, Roger Digge, Hen. Aunger and others to make inquisition by the oaths of good men of the said ports touching evil doers who have carried away the goods taken in a ship called Jean, and five arrested ships of Spain, and stored in houses in the town of Sandwich to be kept for the King, after breaking into the houses, and have carried away also the gear of the ships anchored in the port of the town.

Such extracts from the public records could be multiplied, but it is not necessary to cite more, as the above clearly show the standing of Roger Digge in the county.

Roger Digge appears to have concerned himself very largely with land in Kent and London. One of his principal transactions was with Sir Robert Tibetot, who had married one of the Badlesmere heiresses, and so had acquired the manor of Kingston by Barham. This being held in chief, caused the matter to be enquired into by a writ to the eschætor of Kent dated 4 Nov. 40 Edw. III [1366] whether it would be to the King's damage if Sir Robert was allowed to grant his manor of Kingston held in chief to Roger Digge to hold for life, paying £10 yearly to Sir Robert, to whom and his heirs the manor was to revert after Roger's death. The jurors in answer 19 Dec 40 Edw. III [1366] say it would not be, as there would remain to Sir Robert one quarter of the manor of Kingesdown [Kingsdown by Wrotham] which he held in purparty between himself and the coheirs of Giles de Badelesmere, which quarter was worth 40s. by the year. The jurors give an interesting extent of this manor of Kingston which is printed as an appendix to this paper.

Roger Digge appears to have been connected with Canterbury, as his family had been for a long time, for he was Alderman of Newingate and M.P. for the city in 1355, 1357 and 1360. In 1366 he was M.P. for Kent.

Mr. Streatfeild in a note in his interleaved Hasted, now one of the treasures of the British Museum (opposite

page 130 of the 3rd volume of Hasted), has a pedigree of Digges, in which he makes Roger to have married Albina daughter and heir of Sir Roger Northwode knight. This is confirmed by some statements in the inquisitions in the appendix. She was widow of Simon de Chepstede and on the 18th Sep. 41 Edw. III (1367) Roger Digge and Albina his wife grant to Alice daughter of Simon de Chepstede all her lands in Kingsdown, Ascch, Faukham and Eynysforde, which Albina held for the term of her life, no doubt as dower after Simon's death. The deed is sealed by Roger's seal as shewn in *Arch. Cantiana*, Vol. II, p. 42, No. 8, and it may be noted that Wm. de Kirkebi is a witness.¹

In September, 1357, Roger Digg and Aubina his wife, of the diocese of Canterbury, had a Papal indult to choose their confessors [Cal. of Papal Letters, Vol. 3, p. 590] and as their son John (the only one of whom any record remains) was of age in November, 1379, the marriage may be assigned to some date about 1357. The lady appears to have brought to her husband a marsh in Gillingham and 6 acres of land in that parish held of the manor of Northwood Chasteners by knight service and 20s. yearly rent. Albina died before Roger, as appears by his will, and was buried in the north transept at Barham. Weever has preserved the epitaph on her tomb.

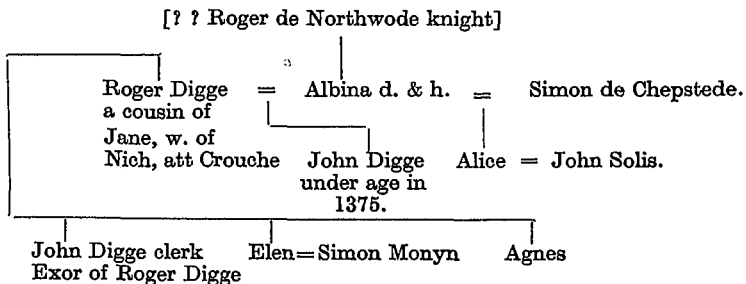
**Albina la Femme Rogeri Digge gist icy
Dieu de salme eit mercy. Amen.**

It is clear that Albina was some connection of the Northwodes, judging by the tenure of the lands and marsh, but she nowhere appears in the chronicle of the family (printed in the 2nd vol. of *Arch. Cantiana* and dealing very fully with the Northwodes about the date 1350), which would almost certainly have been the case if she had been daughter of Sir Roger Northwode, knt. ; and the statements in the inquisitions do not confirm this part of the allegation. Moreover the chronicle shows that her son John Digge did

¹ This deed was copied by Hasted from a collection of deeds then in a volume at Surrenden. This collection was probably made by the first baronet, as it contains all the forged deeds as well of others of great interest. Hasted's manuscript of it is now Add. MS. 5481 in the British Museum.

marry a daughter of Sir John de Northwode on whom some manors were settled by her brother, Sir Roger Northwode, knt.

Roger Dig made his will in 1374 and sealed a codicil in 1375. It was proved in 1378 and is at Lambeth. An abstract is printed in the Appendix. It presents many points of interest and it is impossible to read it without realising that Roger had some qualms of conscience about the bargains he had driven with various persons about landed estate, and he endeavours to rectify the matters so far as he could, by leaving a *solatium* to the persons to whom such property would have descended. As the debts and legacies of his wife had not been fully settled, it is to be assumed that she died shortly before 1374. Her will has not been traced. It is to be gathered from the will and codicil that Roger was a servant of the Bishop of Rochester and that he had a yearly fee for his service whatever it may have been. From the wills of Roger and his brother John the following piece of pedigree can be constructed. The portion in brackets is due to Mr. Streatfeild and is not confirmed by the wills.



It is to be observed that, while the testator directs his burial at Barham, he gives his executor an overriding power as to that. It has been suggested that in fact he was buried at Adisham, because, by his will proved 1378, Master Richard de Warmyngton, rector of Adisham, directs his own burial in the chancel there alongside the body of "Dominus" Roger Dygge. Seeing that our Roger had no connection with Adisham and his executor equally no connection, it might be thought extremely improbable. It is to be

observed, moreover, that the Roger Dygge is described as "Dominus" which suggests that he was in orders. That there was at any rate one Roger Digge who was in orders appears from an entry in the Patent Rolls under date June 16th, 23 Edw. III [1349] where reference is made to "Sir" Roger Dygge, steward of the household to John, late Archbishop of Canterbury. Further a reference is made in the Canterbury letters (Vol. I, p. 84) under date 29th October, 1322, to a Roger Dygge of Barham, a poor clerk who came to the Prior with a papal bull of provision. The Prior refers the matter to the Archbishop. Roger is found by examination fit to hold a benefice (p. 86) and seems in a fair way of getting one (pp. 92, 108). Mr. Frampton in his list of rectors of Woodchurch says Roger Dygge resigned Cuxton for Woodchurch in 1333; was still rector of Woodchurch in 1342 and ultimately became Rector of Adisham. It is almost certain, therefore, that our Roger Digge was buried at Barham by his wife and that the brass is, as suggested above, the remains of his monument.

It is remarkable that his will contains no word about his son John. Perhaps this was because he was not of age and that therefore the father preferred to leave everything in the hands of the uncle John Digge, who was in orders, was rector of Bishopsbourne and canon of the church of Wingham. As John Digge in his will speaks of his poor parishioners at Barham and is buried in the chancel there, it may be that he also served that church. A John Digge, clerk, was collated by the Bishop of Ely, the patron of Feltwell in Norfolk, to that rectory on 15th May, 1312, and is mentioned as non-resident 1331 because he was chaplain to the Bishop of Carlisle. The Bishop of Carlisle at that date was John de Ros, who was Rector of Bishopsbourne.¹ This may have been our John Digge, who can be

¹ After John de Ros was consecrated Bp. of Carlisle in 1326, Bishopsbourne was provided for Master John Luterell, S.T.P., who had a dispensation as he was illegitimate. Luterell dying in 1335, Wm. de Skelton, M.A., B.D., was provided with that rectory. Skelton died in Rome in 1342 and Gerald, Cardinal priest of St. Sabina's, was given the living, which he held till his death in 1343, when it was provided for John Thursteyn.

certainly traced in John Digg, S.C.L., who petitions the Pope in 1360 as a member of the household of Sir Simon de Sudburia for the church of Mudele [Middle, co. Salop] dio. Lichfield in the gift of the abbot and convent of Scrovysbery [Shrewsbury] of the value of £20, void by the death of Robert de Coventre. This petition is granted. In 1362, as Rector of Halton on Trent in the diocese of Lincoln, he exchanges that rectory with Geoff. Scroope for the rectory of Solihull, co. Warwick, in the patronage of Dame Ann le Despenser, which he seems to have held till 1371, when another rector is presented. In 1363 as John Digg, B.C.L. and B.A. he petitions the Pope for a canonry of Lichfield with expectation of a prebend, although he has the church of Solihull, and in the same year as John Digge, who has studied and heard lectures in civil law for many years, he petitions the Pope for the church of Bishopsbourne, dio. Canterbury, value 50 marks, void since Wm. Thingall has obtained an incompatible benefice in the church of Wells; and is granted it, though he has the church of Solihull and a canonry of Lichfield. In 1366 a formal defect in the grant of the canonry is only amended on condition that he resigns Solihull. In 1363 Robert, the prior of Christ Church, appoints him one of his proctors at the Roman curia.

Hasted copies from the Surrenden collection a deed made at Barham the Sunday after the Epiphany 48 Edw. III [Jan. 8. 1374/5] by which Jas. de Bourne grants to John Dygge, clerk, and Roger Dygge, all his manors of Wickham and Swanton near Barham, and all the lands he has in the towns of Ledenne, Swinfelde, Sibertyswelde, and Wotton [Add. MS. 5481 pencil folio 24b]. John Digge only survived his brother a fortnight, and so the Executors, duties under Roger's will passed to John's executors under his will made 16 Sep 1375. They were Edmund de Godwynstone [Rector of Kingston], Simon Monyn, Stephen Norton and John Lynch. This will is also at Lambeth and an abstract is printed in the Appendix. It is full of points of interest, and ample provision is made for his nephew John Digge. It

may be added here that, probate being granted to both wills in 1378, the Executors get a discharge under both on the same day 12 Nov 1379 at Otford.

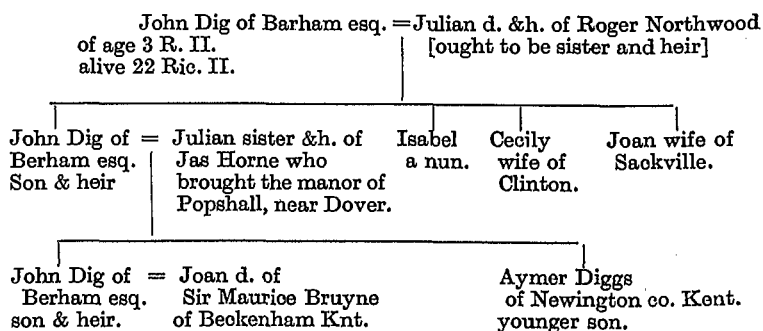
Both Roger and his brother being dead, the eschætor for Kent seems to have swooped on all the realty of the young heir, and with promptitude. It was not found necessary, however, to issue writs directing inquisitions *post mortem* till 14 Feb 1380, and the returns to these writs are in the Record Office. They are both printed in the Appendix. They are both taken in March 1380 and establish many of the facts quite clearly, including the date of Roger's death, 4th Sep 1375; of his brother John, 19 Sep 1375, and of the coming of age of John Digge, who was heir of his father Roger, of his mother Albina, and of his uncle John Digge, clerk, on the 11th of November 1379. As he was his mother's heir, Simon de Chepstede can only have had by her the daughter Alice who married John Solis.

The result of the inquisitions is noted in the Close Rolls of 1381 4 Ric. II. First Ellis Reynner, eschætor for Kent, is directed to remove the King's hand and meddle no further with 6 acres of land and a marsh in Gillingham, delivering to John son of Rog. Digge and of Albina his wife any issues taken because Roger held the premises by the courtesy of England with reversion to the said John and the same are held of others than the King. In the next place the eschætor is directed to give John, son of Roger Digge, cousin and heir of John Digge, clerk, brother of the said Roger and tenant by knight service of the heir of the lord of Say, a tenant in chief of the late King, seisin of his said uncles lands as he has proved his age and the King has taken his fealty.

Mr. Streatfeild, in the pedigree already alluded to, makes this John Digge marry Julian, sister and heir of Jas. Horne esq. That he married a lady named Julian is confirmed by the pedigree set out in the inquisition taken after the death of John Digge, who died in 1503. John Digge on the 26 May 1384, according to the Black Book of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, did homage to the Abbot for a fee in Sutton by Northbourne and for a quarter of a fee in Sholdone, to

wit of Cotmanton, which fell to him after the death of his father. In the enquiry under Letters Patent of the 2nd Jan. 13 Hen. IV (1412) about all persons who had £20 a year in land in Kent, John Dygge is returned at £118 19s. 8d., a very large income at that time. From the Fect of Fines of 12 Hen. IV, No. 522, he appears to have had a second wife, Alice, who was relict of one Crymylforde whose son Richard Crymylforde was disposing of his reversions.

John appears to have survived till May 19, 1419, if the inquisition taken on the death of a John Digge under a writ of 16 Jan : 7 Hen V applies to him, as it seems it must, because his heir, John, being 24, must have been born before 1396, which rather points to his father having been born before 1371. The return to the writ is given in the Appendix. There is from this point a total absence of wills, and also of inquisitions; till 1444, when there is an inquisition for Aymer Digges. But it would seem that Mr. Streatfeild has omitted a step in the pedigree and married Roger's son to the wrong Julian, for, by a fine of 3 Ric. II No. 202, the manors of Yoke [in Frinsted] and Wychelynge are settled on John [son of Roger Digge] and his wife Juliana in tail after the death of Agnes wife of Christopher Shukkeburgh, who held them for life, the settler being Roger, son of Sir John de Northwode, knt. who appears by the Northwode family memoir, to have been brother of this Juliana. The pedigree in Add MS. 26758 before alluded to appears more correct and may now be continued: Starting with John son of Roger it runs thus:—



The Inquisition on Aymer who died in 1443/4 is set out in the Appendix, and it is the only record which enables any conjecture to be made of the date of the death of his elder brother, John, who is almost certainly the person to whom the other brass at Barham is to be assigned. This is clearly ascertained by the arms noted by Hasted, as above set out, as existing in connection with this brass, which are doubtless Bruyn quartering Rokele, as borne by the Bruyns of Beckenham.

Further about this John Digge nothing certain can be ascertained, as any entry in the rolls may just as well apply to his father as to himself, for both had the same christian name. And moreover these entries are but two.

In the Canterbury letters is a note of the oath taken by John Digges esq., Sheriff of Kent, before the Prior of Christ Church, on the 21 Dec 1461. He expressly undertakes to suppress Lollordes.

In the Patent Rolls under dates Jan. 16 and Jan. 28 1460, John Digge is put in the commission of array for the parts of Kent round Canterbury, and in August of the same year with John Oxynden and John Isaak is directed to enquire about a petition of John Fog esq: about the manor of Toneford. [Tonford in Thanington.]

APPENDIX.

Will made Friday next before the feast of St. Thos. the Apostle 48 Edw. III [16 Dec 1374] by Roger Digg.

To be buried in church or churchyard of Berham or elsewhere according to the choice of my executor. He is to cause to be sung for the good estate of the King and for my soul and for the souls of Thos. Trillek late bp. of Rochester and all my relations and benefactors 3000 masses by various chaplains.

To Wm. Kerkeby and Agnes his wife for their help and to aid in marrying their daughters to have all the lands which I bought at Faukham and Dernte [Darenth] of Roger Kerkeby and 200 sheep there and all other goods which I have there value £37 which Clement Fifian owes me for the last two years

so that the feoffees of that land make an estate tail to Wm. and Agnes with remainder to my right heirs.

My lands at Chepstede [a manor in Kingsdown by Wrotham] after the death of Alice wife of John Solis are to be given by Jas. de Pecham and the other feoffees to the heirs of the body of the said Alice remainder to my right heirs.

To Simon Monyn my long silver girdle: to Elen his wife my sister a ring to be chosen by my brother. To Nich. atté Crouche a silver cup and cover worth 40/- and to his wife Jane my kinswoman a ring chosen by my brother.

To Jas. de Pecham my short silver girdle worth about 10 marcs. To Nich. de Nortone a silver cup and cover worth 40/-. To Master Edmd. de Godwynstone parson of Kyngestone 40/-. To John Lynche 100/-. To John Medeforde the 40/- he owes me. To Wm. Broke 40/-. To Wm. Tebold 20/- and a robe from my wardrobe. All the rest of my wardrobe to my servants and to the poor as my brother directs. To John Solis 40/- and to Alice his wife a ring selected by my brother. To "Dominus" Wm. Prat 40/- and five marcs to his brother the smith (frabri) in order that they may relieve my soul of the burden on it arising from my purchase of lands and tenements which were theirs at Plumbstede (ita quod disonerent animam meam de emptione terrarum et tenementum quæ suce fuerunt apud Plumbstede).

To John Solley the 25 marcs he owes me and to his wife 40/- for her clothing in order that &c. (as above) which were theirs at Stone.

To the Prioress and nuns of St. Sepulchre's Canterbury £10 in order that &c. (as above) which were theirs at Brome and to pray for me.

To John Ingelard an acre of land he holds to farm in order that &c. (as above) the house which was his in London.

To every order of Friars in Canterbury and to the house at Harbaldon and to the house of Nortgate 20/- each.

To the Prioress of St. James 20/-. To Thos. de Godwyne-stone 40/-.

All the debts and legacies of Albyna late my wife as they are contained in a folio of a quire of paper and my debts as contained in the said quire are to be paid and more if owing.

To John Lidle the 10 marcs he owes me. To Robt. atte Gore and his wife Agnes 5 marcs. To John Elys of Canterbury

20/-. To "Dominus" John vicar of Newenton 40/-. To Wm. Peryngale 20/-.

The residue I leave to my brother John Digg, clerk, and I make him my executor.

Sealed the last day of August 49 Edw. III [Aug. 31, 1375].

To John Wantynge 5 marcs he owes me. To my lord the Bp. of Rochester the 5½ marcs which Edm^d. de Lakynghethe owes me being arrears of my fee (feodi mei) and to the monk his chaplain 20/-.

Probate 18 kal. Oct anno dni etc. lxxviii at Croidon [14 Sep 1378].

2 ides Nov. anno dni etc. lxxix at Otteford the administrators discharged [12 Nov 1379].

[fol. 79 Sudbury.]¹

Will made 16 Sep. 1375 by John Digge Rector of Bisschop-pishōne².

To be buried in the chancel of the church of Berham.

To the lamp in the chancel three marcs.

My executors are to buy Flanders tiles [Tegulas de Flandres] to pave the said chancel.

To the lamp in the chancel of the said Bourne church 3 marcs and my executors to pave that chancel as the chancel of Berham.

To the fabric of Berham church 5 marcs and to that of Bourne 2½ marcs.

To my poor parishioners of Berham 10 marcs and to my poor parishioners of Bourne 5 marcs.

Agnes my sister is to have any robe she may choose, Margaret ate Gore to have another robe without its cloak (cloga) because I leave its cloak to John Elys.

My third robe to my sister Elen and to Simon Monyn my cloak furred with Bewere (beaver).

¹ In *Testamenta Vetusta* I. 89, is what purports to be an abstract of this will ascribed to Sir Roger Digge, Knight. The learned Sir Harris Nicolas in his preface points out how difficult it was then to get access to the original probates and only professes to have collected the various wills from printed sources. It is not surprising therefore that the abstract he prints is full of errors. There is no evidence that Roger Digge was a knight. The evidence is all the other way. Unfortunately trusting in the high authority of Nicolas, I repeated this error in the tractate I printed privately in 1915, about Wrotham. My negligence in not then going rather to the original, now easy of access is inexcusable.

² Bishopsbourne; throughout the will thereafter he refers to it shortly as Bourne.

My successor to have my grange at Deryngstone and all the adjacent land to the rectory of Bourne at a suitable price for repairs ;

John Lynch 100/- ; Master Edmund Godwynstone 40/- ; Wm. Broke 20/- ; Master Rich. Tykenhurst 40/- ;

Wm. Tebold, Sim. Lambyn, Adam Sheppherde, and Thos. Webbe 5/8 each ; Thos. Sherreve 13/4 ; Rog. Tailour my servant at Bourne 5 marcs ; John Medeford 5 marcs ; Hen. Cook, Thos. Brok, and John Michel each 20/- ; Stephen our cook 10/-.

My executors are to give the poor 10 marcs to pray for the soul of Master Wm. Herewardstoke, and the soul of " Dominus " Wm. Bellis and to spend 10 marcs to have masses celebrated for them for a year.

To the fabric of the church of Newenton 20/-.

I leave my little " portiforium " to Dom. Wm. Aleyne the priest of the almonry of Canterbury priory.

The advowson of the church of Godham to be sold and the proceeds handed to my executors.

Dom. John Elys vicar of Newyntone 20/-.

Nic. ate Crouch to have my fur tippet of pole cat (fines) and the one of Otyr.

Wm. Peryngal to have 13/4.

Executors Edmd. de Godwynstone, Simon Monyn, Stephen Norton and John Lynch. Residue left to them.

To John Dygge son of my brother my silver cup and the gilt one with cover, six silver dishes, and a silver covered cup of the better kind and 24 best spoons and " pipam " [? pipkin] gilt with a cover and a little hand basin all these to remain with one of my executors till the said John is of age. Everything that remains in my disposition or left to my care by the will of Roger my brother is to be dealt with by my executors.

The said John Dygge to have the great brass " companeam " and three others of the better brass as my executors shall choose.

Probate viii ides of October in the said year (? 1378) and as the said testator was canon of the church of Wingham in his life commission given to Rich. de Warmyngtone canon of the said church of Wingham to commit the administration to the executors named.

In the margin is a note that 2 Ides Nov 1379 the executors got their discharge at Otford.

[fol. 80 Sudbury.]

Inq. post mortem Roger Digge.

Writ 14 Feb 3 Ric. II [1380].

Inquest taken at Sittingbourne Wednesday next after the feast of St. Gregory 3 Ric. II [March 14th, 1380] before John Brode the eschætor for Kent.

Jurors: Adam Joye of Gillingham, Rich. Longe, Hen. Wodenholte, Peter Covene, Thos. Sherreve, John Peytewyne of Gillingham, Hen. Gyles, John Wadewell, Wm. atte Broke, Rich. Clapsho, Wm. Cent and Wm. Walter of Gillingham.

They find that Roger Digge held nothing of the King. He held for life 6 acres of land and a marsh in Gillingham by the law of England in right of Albina his wife, the reversion being in their son John. The said lands were held of Sir John Northwode knt. as of his manor of Northwood Chateneres by knight service and 20/- rent at Michaelmas. They are worth 5/- and no more because the marsh is submerged by the water of the sea "de Medeweya." The said Roger died the 4th Sep. 49 Edw. III [1375].

The said John is next heir of Roger and of Albina his wife and of the full age of 21 on Sunday next after the feast of St. Martin last past [Nov. 11, 1379].

The said John de Northwode knt. took the rents and profits of the said 6 acres from the death of Roger to the present time by reason of the minority of Roger's said son John, who was heir to his mother Albina and in the custody of the said John de Northwode. Thos. de Illyston late eschætor for Kent seised the marsh into the King's hand along with the manor of Wykham after the death of John Digge, clerk, whose heir John son of Roger is because of the minority of the said John son of Roger, and answered to the King as appears by his account.

Inq. post mortem John Digge, clerk.

Writ 14 Feb 3 Ric. II [1380].

Inquest taken at Canterbury Friday next after the feast of St. Gregory 3 Ric. II [March 16th, 1380] before John Brode eschætor for Kent.

Jurors:—Wm. atte Broke, Rich. Longhe of Wykham, Hen. Wadenholte, Thos. Sherreve, John Paytewynthe, Hen. Bil, Rich. Clapsho, John Wadewell, Wm. Cent, Adam Joye, Peter Covene and Wm. [destroyed].

They find that John Digge, clerk, held nothing of the King. He died seised in fee of the manor of Wykham juxta Ledenne, which he held of the heir of the Lord de Say (who is in the King's ward, being a minor) by knight service and suit of his court of Patrikesbourne and 5/- rent of Dover Castle guard, one toft and 130 ac. of land and pasture for sheep. The said manor is worth 26/6 a year, the said toft and 30 acres of arable (each acre worth 3d.) and 100 acres of pasture for sheep (each acre worth 2d).

He died seised in fee of various lands and tenements in Barham, Newenton, and Kingeston held of the Abp. of Canterbury, the Bp. of Rochester, the Abbot of St. Augustines, the prior of Christ Church, the master of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and others, services unknown. All the said lands are Gavelekendes worth £27.4.0 a year.

He died 19 Sep 49 Edw. III [1375].

John son of Roger Digge brother of the said John Digge, clerk, is his heir and of full age on Sunday next after the feast of St. Martin last past [Nov. 11, 1379].

The King had the rents and profits of the said lands and the said manor by the hands of Thos. de Ilston, late eschætor, and the hands of John Brode now eschætor, as appears by their accounts from the death of the said John, clerk, to the present time; but the said John son of Roger received the rents and profits of the lands of Gavelekendes because he was of the age of 17 years and more at the death of the said John, clerk, and so of age according to the custom of Gavelekendes.

Inq. post mortem John Dygge.

Writ 16 Jan 7 Hen. V.

Inquest taken at Lenham Thursday in Easter week 8 Hen. V [11 April 1420] before Wm. Spondon Eschætor for Kent.

Jurors:—John Reyner, Wm. Evote, Wm. Pepy, John Sare of Wormesell, John (illegible), Thos. Meere, Rbt. Cok of Ledyn, John atte Lee, Thos. atte Hall, John Cent, Symon Brokdale, Thos. Gybbe.

They find that John Dygge held nothing of the King.

He died on the feast of St. Dunstan the Bp. last past [May 19, 1419].

John Dygge his son is his heir aged 24 years and more.

Inq. post mortem Aymer (Adomarus) Dygges.

Writ 26 June 22 Hen. VI [1444].

Inquest taken at Rochester 21 Nov 23 Hen. VI [1444] before Richard Frogenhall Eschætor for Kent.

Jurors :—John Cartare, Wm. Cartare, Walt. Weldere, Ric. Smyth, Robt. Rowe, Wm. Lane, Ric. Charlys, Steph. Nebyr, John Melite, Steph. (illegible), Wm. Rolff, Rog. Dalham.

They find that Aymer Dygges held nothing of the King.

He died Thursday next after the feast of St. Gregory the Pope last past [19 March 1443/4].

John Dygges is his son and heir and 23 years old and more.

Inq. ad quod damnum File 360 No. 11.

The jurors found the manor of Kingston was held by service of a quarter of a knights fee and yearly payments of 13/2 to Dover Castle, 18 pence to Chilham castle and 2½d to the church of Kingston. The manor is worth yearly £10 0 1¼ and half a farthing: there is a capital messuage with curtilage worth 12d by the year, 72 acres arable of which two thirds can be sown if well tilled and then an acre is worth 4d; not sown an acre is worth 3d as pasture. The other third not pasturable worth 2d an acre. Further there are 9 acres of meadow worth 30/- a year and 10 acres of wood worth 35/- in season. There is a several pasture for sheep worth 26/6 yearly. Rents at Xmas from free tenants amount to 12d a year 88 hens at Xmas from these tenants 14/8 yearly and 8 cocks 12d a year. Rent at the Purification 18/11 yearly; at Easter 880 eggs worth 3/8 yearly; at Hokeday 1 qr. 5½ lbs palm barley worth 2/8 yearly; at the Gules of August 2/6¼ yearly rent at Michaelmas 6/9 yearly rent and 4¼ plough shares worth 5/3 yearly. At St. Martin in winter 76.8¼ yearly rent from free tenants and 1 q 5½ lbs of winter barley at 2/6 a quarter.