

TWO BRASSES

The embroidery on the skirt of M. Rust of Necton, Norfolk, is almost identical with that of *Sea's wives*, and is evidence of the use of some sort of "pattern-book" so far afield.

Richard Thornhill and his two wives is the closest of the parallels shown in the above list. The embroidery is lacking, but the attitude of the figures, and the style of lettering used are very similar to the *Sea brass*, while the plates of children, in positions copying those of the parents, and grouped according to the position of their respective mothers, is exactly that which is suggested by the newly found plate at Herne.

The brass to Dorothy Plumley is unique in being signed "Done by James Plumley her sonne" and is presumably a local copy of the, by then, familiar style.

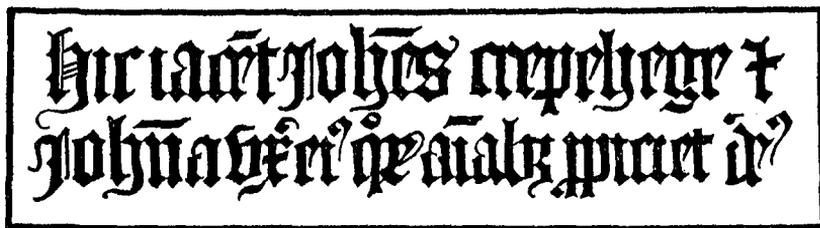
THE CREPEHEGE BRASS AT DARENTH

By JOHN E. L. CAIGER

In the church of St. Margaret, Darenth, Kent, are two small inscription brasses, one of which is to Mary Bridges who died in 1617 and another, more ancient, to John Crepehege and his wife, Joan.

This last named brass is particularly interesting. It occupies an obscure position on the floor of the nave and for this reason and the fact that it is not recorded in two well known works on Kentish brasses¹ it has been neglected or missed by most antiquaries. John Thorpe² gives an engraving of it, taken from a rough sketch he made in 1768. The sketch is very crude and fails to illustrate the style of lettering accurately.

The brass has been relaid since Thorpe's time and is now secured by three rivets to the floor at the extreme eastern end of the south aisle. There are now, unfortunately, three fractures to the plate directly adjoining the right-hand rivet entry. The small brass plate, 10 in. by 2½ in. contains a two line inscription in black letter and is reproduced below :



¹ Macklin. *Belcher*.

² *Cust. Roff.*, Pl. XIII, Fig. 3, p. 104.

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HIC JACE(N)T JOH(ANN)ES CREPEHEGE ET JOH(AN)NA
 UX(OR) EI(US) Q(U)OR(UM) A(N)I(M)ABUS P(RO)PICIET(UR)
 DE(US)

Translation : Here lie John Crepehege and Joan his wife on whose souls may God have mercy.

John Crepehege was a wealthy yeoman and held the Manor of Darenth with 364 acres of wood and pasture on lease from Thomas, Prior of the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Rochester, during the latter part of the fifteenth century. It would appear that the tenure of this lease was not altogether satisfactory as frequent disagreements seem to have taken place. Hasted¹ mentions "and there having been continual variance between the Prior and Convent and him (John Crepehege) as their tenant he came to an agreement with them". This agreement between John Crepehege and the Prior still survives in the County Archives Office, Maidstone.² A transcription of this document is given by John Thorpe in his *Registrum Roffense*.³ A reference to the same agreement and a description of the brass is included in a letter, dated 1784, from the Rev. Samuel Denne to John Thorpe, the text of which is reproduced in his *Custumale Roffense*.⁴

The Rev. Denne states : "The only very ancient brass . . . is fixed on the wall of the south aisle, under the south window ; but doubtless it was formerly placed over the remains of JOHN CREPEHEGE and JOAN his wife . . ." He continues : "On the 12th of February 20 Edward III (A.D. 1346) were sealed articles of agreement betwixt the Prior . . ." The Rev. Denne was in error regarding the date of this agreement, 20 Edward III (1346), as an inspection of the actual document already referred to gives it as 20 Edward IV (1481).

A similar discrepancy regarding the date of this agreement is to be noted in Hasted's *History of Kent*. The early edition (1778) gives the date correctly as Edward IV but the later edition (1797) repeats the error and assigns the date to the reign of Edward III.

It is interesting to note the many variations on the spelling of the name Crepehege that were used during this period of the fifteenth century. The spelling on the brass is Crepehege whilst on the agreement the name is written Crepehegge. In 1483 the Manor of Cleyndon, a sub-manor of Darenth, was occupied by a certain Thomas Crephedge.⁵ Mention is made of a Walter Crephogg (1458),⁶ and also Walter Crepeheggs (1433).⁷ All of these, presumably, members of the same

¹ *History of Kent*, Vol. I (1778), p. 246.

² Prior T. Bourne's book. Dean and Chapter of Rochester Archives.

³ P. 275.

⁴ P. 101.

⁵ Hasted, Vol. I, p. 249.

⁶ *Arch. Cant.*, XIII, 155.

⁷ *Arch. Cant.*, XXVII, 112.

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family and living in the same part of Kent, but with different renderings of the name. The brass is correctly listed by Griffin and Stephenson as fifteenth century. Haines briefly states that it was fixed to the wall of the nave in his time (1861). These writers do not illustrate the brass in their works on Kentish brasses.

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