

Monumental Brasses in Somerset

PART XVI

BY ARTHUR B. CONNOR, F.S.A.

BROMPTON REGIS

Inscription with six English verses ; Thomas Dyke, gent., 1639, and wife Joan, 1605. They had five sons, Thomas, Robert, William, John, and Joseph, and one daughter, Lavinia ; Robert, their second son, 1622 ; Joseph, fifth son, 1630 ; John, fourth son, 1639, who had by his wife Eleanor, Joan and Mary ; William, third son, 1645 ; Mary, younger daughter of John and Eleanor, 1637 ; Joan, their elder daughter, 1654. On the north wall of the chancel, within the rails. (See accompanying illustration.)

Inscription in a classical border, with a well-engraved winged cherub's head in the bottom centre. It consists of eighteen lines of small Roman capitals in English, followed by four lines of large Roman lettering, and six lines of English verse in capitals below. The plate measures $21\frac{1}{2}$ by $25\frac{3}{4}$ in.

HEERE IN THIS CHAVNCELL,
LYE BVRIED THE BODYES OF THOMAS DYKE GENT: & IOANE HIS WIFE, SHEE
DYED THE 21TH DAY OF OCTOBER 1605, AND HEE DYED THE 13TH DAY OF APRILL
1639, THEY HAD ISSVE FIVE SONNES THOMAS, ROBERT, WILLIAM, IOHN, & IOSEPH
& ONE DAUGHTER NAMED LAVINIA
ROBERT THEIR SECOND SONNE WAS HEERE BVRIED THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF IVLY
1622.
IOSEPH THEIR FIFT SONNE WAS BVRIED HEERE THE SEAVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER
1630.
IOHN THEIR FOWRTH SONNE WAS BVRIED HEERE THE ONE & TWENTIETH DAY OF
APRILL 1639: HE HAD ISSVE BY ELIANOR HIS WIFE TWO DAUGHTERS VIZ
IOANE & MARIE.
WILLIAM THIRD SONNE OF THE SAID THOMAS DYKE & IOANE HIS WIFE
WAS HEERE BVRIED THE TWELVETH DAY OF OCTOBER 1645.
MARY YOVNGEST DAUGHTER OF THE SAID IOHN DYKE & ELIANOR HIS WIFE
WAS BVRIED HEERE THE 28TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1637.
IOANE DYKE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE SAID IOHN DYKE & ELIANOR HIS WIFE
WAS BVRIED HEERE THE TENTH DAY OF OCTOBER 1654.

In obitum pijssimæ adolescentulæ Dnæ Iohannæ Dyke
quæ excessit e vita p hydropem 2^o 8^{bris} ætatis suæ anno
19^o corpusculū hæc terra condit in spem resurrectionis
ad vitam æternam.

READER TIS WORTH THY PAINES TO KNOW
WHO WAS INTERRED HERE BELOWE
HERE LYES GOOD NATVRE PIETIE AND WITT
THOVGH SMALL IN VOLVME YET MOST FAIERLY WRITT
SHE DYED YOVNG, AND SO OFTTIMES TIS SEENE
THE FRVIT GOD LOVES HE'S PLEAS'D TO PLVCK IT GREENE.

HEERE IN THIS CHAVNCELL

LYE BVRIED THE BODYES OF THOMAS DYKE GEN^T. & IOANE HIS WIFE. SHEE
DYED THE 21TH DAY OF OCTOBER 1605. AND HEE DYED THE 13TH DAY OF APRILL
1639. THEY HAD ISSVE FIVE SONNES THOMAS ROBERT WILLIAM IOHN & IOSEPH
& ONE DAUGHTER NAMED LAVINIA

ROBERT THEIR SECOND SONNE WAS HEERE BVRIED THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF IVLY
1622.

IOSEPH THEIR FIFT SONNE WAS BVRIED HEERE THE SEAVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER
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APRILL 1639. HE HAD ISSVE BY ELIANOR HIS WIFE TWO DAUGHTERS VIZ
IOANE & MARIE.

WILLIAM THIRD SONNE OF THE SAID THOMAS DYKE & IOANE HIS WIFE
WAS HEERE BVRIED THE TWELVETH DAY OF OCTOBER 1645.

MARY YOVNGEST DAUGHTER OF THE SAID IOHN DYKE & ELIANOR HIS WIFE
WAS BVRIED HEERE THE 28TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1637.

IOANE DYKE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE SAID IOHN DYKE & ELIANOR HIS WIFE
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BROMPTON REGIS

The Dyke Family, First Half of the XVII Century

The eldest son of Thomas and Joan Dyke was born in 1591.
He survived all his brothers and sisters, and died 26 May
1672, aged 81. See brass to his memory at Kingston St. Mary
(*Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxxxiii, 138-9, Plate XVIII).

ST. DECUMAN'S

I.—*Effigies of Sir John Windham of Orchard [died 1574], in armour ; and Elizabeth Sydenham, his wife, 1571 ; with two foot inscriptions, one under each effigy, with fifty-six lines of English verse. On a table-tomb between the choir and the north choir aisle. (Plate VI.)*

The brass is set in the original slab, 78 by 36 in., on the top of a canopied table-tomb. It consists of the effigies of Sir John Windham, $30\frac{1}{2}$ by 9 in., and his wife, $30\frac{1}{2}$ by $10\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Two foot inscriptions, one under each effigy, are in good black letter, which appears to be by the same engraver as those to the memory of Charles Stenninges at Kilton, 1592, and Philip Stenynges, 1589, at Selworthy (*Proceedings*, xci, pp. 82, 89).

On the dexter side, under Sir John's effigy, there are thirty-five lines of English verse on a plate which measures 22 by 15 in. On the sinister side under his wife's effigy, after three lines of inscription, there are twenty-one lines of verse, ending in one line, recording the date of her death. It measures $16\frac{1}{4}$ by $14\frac{1}{2}$ in.

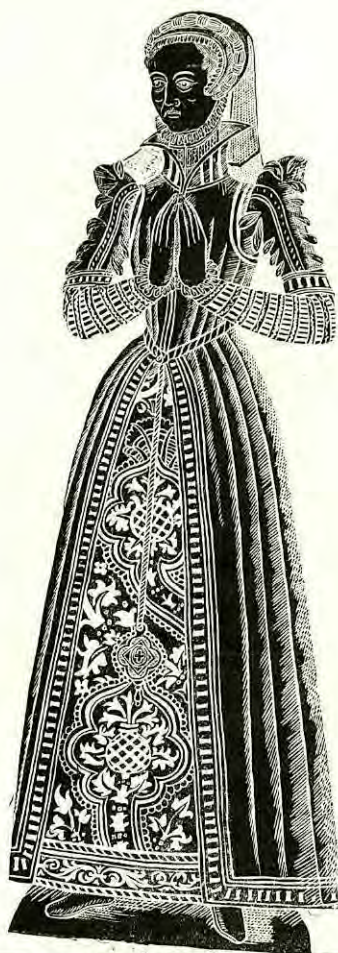
All the lines have been filled in with some black composition. In the lady's inscription in modern times 'rutefull' in the fourteenth line has been added, and the initial S of the word 'Since' has been inserted in the last line but three.

To allow of reproduction on a larger scale the inscriptions have been omitted with the exception of the first few lines, which have been retained to show the disposition of the plates and the style of lettering.

Although a man be never so possesse
 with all the gyses that fortune can bestowe
 And though his mynde be bewtified and bleste
 with everye grace that from the heavens do flowe
 Yet at the laste, this fickle lyfe we owe
 Perforce muste fele the stroke of fatall knyfe
 Suche is the frayltie of o' p'sente lyfe
 A perfeight patterne to approve the same
 Lo here the corps of Syr Johā Windham Knight
 whose faultles lyfe hathe purchaste suche a fame
 As death with all his dart' shall never flighte
 The sonne itselke shall soner lose his lighte
 Then he shall wante his well deserved praise
 Suche were the deedes of his forepassed daies.
 This worthie knighte of knighthlie parentage
 In Norfolke borne, the midle Sonne of thre
 who when he was but yet of sornige age
 Put forthe suche Buddes of prooffe, what he wolde be
 As beinge stirred with zeale to heare and see
 The worlde whereby, him selfe he mighte adbaunce
 He paste the seas to serve the King of ffrance
 Where entertaynde in place of good accompte
 Here to the prince in favo' lyved still
 Till care of countrey soile (which dothe surmounte)
 Did drawe him hence where bendinge witte and will
 To teates of Armes, and other warlicke skill
 His leige in sien of loyall service done
 Adbaunste him to this seate of Knightlie rome.
 Thus happellie led this worthie Knighte his lyfe
 And died in faith, by Christe of future Joye
 Howe good and vertuous ladye to his wyfte
 He had, what seede hir Epitathe dothe shoue
 To vs behinde thereby this fruyte dothe growe
 ffirste in his Deathe godes power & praise is knowen
 Then by his lyfe we learne to mende our' owne.

An Epitaphe vppon the deathe of
 the Ladye Elizabeth Windham
 That godlie gratte wch earste in Orcharde grewe
 Drawen by discente from worthie Sydnams race
 Loos here yt lyes by ayme of owtwarde bewe
 Wrapte in the webbe of thrise unhappie case
 But yet in deede (throughe undeserued grace)
 Is planted nowe in suche a plesaunte soile
 As springes for aye and yet requiers no toyle
 What cause hir Deathe dothe offer to lamente
 None knowes so well as S^r Johñ Windham knyghte
 Withe whome twyse two and ffortie yeres she spent
 In blisfull state of bothe theire hartes delyghte
 To whome hir ffrutefull wombe broughte vnto lighte
 A race of Children Sittinge hir degree
 Of Dawghters sixe hir Sonnes were fower & thre,
 Those goodlie gyftes that did hir myde possesse
 As zelous love, to god and to his lawes,
 Hir awnswringe lyfe to that she did professe,
 Hir redye hande to helpe the porest cause
 (Since fame resoundes :) my sillie penne shall pause
 And praie to God, that we which here abyde
 Maye treade the stepps of suche a parfight gyde
 Obijt primo die Januarij. 1571

Sir John Windham is represented as an elderly man with close-cropped hair, long beard and moustache. His head rests on his helmet, his feet on a grassy mound. Round his neck he wears a small ruff over a steel gorget of four lames. The lower part of the cuirass is reinforced by a plate in the form of a scallop shell, to which the skirt or projecting ridge is attached. The pauldrons are large and fluted, which, with the upstanding guards at the neck, are bordered by scroll patterns with cord-like projecting edges. The same edges occur on the elbow-cops, but with plain borders. The pauldron on the right shoulder has an inward curve at the armpit. Gauntlets with separate fingers protect the hands. Hinged from the skirt of the cuirass two tassets hang over a deep skirt of mail. They consist of five lames, gradually decreasing in width, the lowest being rounded. The long sword hangs diagonally behind the left thigh by a strap crossing from the right hip, whilst the dagger hangs vertically against the right thigh. Broad-toed sabatons, to which rowel spurs are screwed, protect the feet.



Although a man be never so politic
None all the gales that fortune can bestow

An Epitaph upon the death of
the Lady Elizabeth Windham

ST. DECUMAN'S
Sir John Windham, 1574, and his wife, Elizabeth, 1571
MONUMENTAL BRASSES IN SOMERSET

The effigy has many points of resemblance with those of William Hyde, 1567, at Denchworth, and Edmond Wiseman, 1584, at Steventon, both in Berkshire. They are probably from the same workshop.

Elizabeth Windham wears a very pretty early example of the French hood, which developed into the characteristic Mary Queen of Scots head-dress. It is of rounded form, and shows the centrally parted hair. She wears a small ruff over the high-pleated collar of the chemisette, the sleeves of which appear on the forearms with small ruffles at the wrists. The over-gown is of one piece, confined at the waist by a cord, from which hangs a round jewelled pendant. It has a high collar, striped and outspreading. The sleeves, puffed, slashed, and with a central stripe, reach only to just above the elbow. They and the skirt have a stiff border pattern, resembling a row of capital I's. The skirt is open in front to show the petticoat, embroidered with a bold design of 'pineapple' motif. Very similar designs adorn the wives of William Hyde and Edmond Wiseman, mentioned above. The likeness is even more marked on the brass at Weston Underwood, Bucks., to the memory of Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Hussey, wife first of Walter Hungerford, secondly of Sir Robert Throgmorton. In her case a broad scroll-pattern borders the skirt of the over-gown. The same is used to decorate the bottom hem of Elizabeth Windham's petticoat. Another brass, apparently by the same engraver, shows John Webbe and wife, 1572, at St. Thomas's Church, Salisbury. Here we see the same unusual form of the French hood, and the pendant, which in this case hangs by a chain.

Dr. F. C. Eeles has kindly allowed the writer to borrow from his excellent account of the tomb:

'The monument is remarkable, as it is of an Elizabethan form of gothic, with scarcely any trace of the renaissance ornament which had begun to come into the west of England more than half a century earlier. The treatment is coarse and eccentric in some ways, but very original and interesting. The canopy, under which the table-tomb stands, is supported upon four pillars. Instead of being combined with the table-tomb or built upon the corners of it, these pillars are built upon the ground and rise clear of it. They support four-centred

arches enclosing a panelled soffit: above is a deep cornice or upper storey, panelled with three coats of arms, broken in the centre by the achievement of the Wyndhams. The canopy is now built up to the arch on the east side, but is free of it on the west, where there is an upper panel containing the initials I and E surmounted by the crests of Wyndham and Sydenham.

'The treatment of the heraldic shields is peculiar. The charges are coarsely but sharply cut in very high relief; no divisions are indicated between the quarterings, and charges such as the bar or the chevron which come to the edge of the shield or quartering are completed within the edge of the field.

'The table-tomb itself has three panels containing coats of arms on the north and south sides respectively, and one on the west end, which shows the Wyndham arms alone.'

Sir John Windham was the second son of Sir Thomas Windham of Felbrigg, Norfolk, by his first wife Eleanore, daughter of Sir Richard Scrope. 'When he was but yet of sornige age,' that is of an age to be dependent on others for board and lodging, he was among those who accompanied Mary, sister of Henry VIII, to France on the occasion of her marriage to her first husband, Louis XII. Windham remained in France till 1523. There he acquired a taste for music and playing on the virginals. While visiting his sister Margaret, married to Sir Andrew Luttrell of Dunster, he met Elizabeth Sydenham, and married her in 1528. Since the death of her brother without issue, she had been the owner of the Sydenham home at Orchard. Thus Sir John became the first of Orchard Wyndham.

Sir John and Elizabeth Wyndham had four sons,—

John married Florence Wadham. He died before his father in 1572 (brass in St. Decuman's Church). She died 1596. Edmund of Kentsford (brass in St. Decuman's, 1616) married Margery Chamberlayne (brass in Stogumber Church, 1585).

Humphrey married Margery Stevenson (monument in Wiveliscombe Church, 1622).

Charles married the widow of John Newton of Sandhill. He died in 1585, when his widow married a third time, Thomas Carne of Ewenny, Glamorgan (brass inscription in Wythlycombe Church).

Sir John Windham survived his wife, to whose memory he erected this tomb. He died in 1574. He was succeeded at Orchard by his grandson, son of John and Florence Windham.

Interesting details of Sir John's career will be found in the Hon. H. A. Wyndham's *A Family History, 1410-1688, The Wyndhams of Norfolk and Somerset*, Oxford University Press, 1939.

II.—*Effigy in armour and wife ; John Windham esq., son and heir of Sir John Windham of Orchard, 1572, aged about 56 ; and Florence his wife, daughter of John Wadham of Merefield esq. and co-heir of Nicholas Wadham of Merefield, 1596, aged 58 ; achievement of arms, four shields, and two foot inscriptions (one a restoration). Their son, Sir John Windham of Orchard pos. On the east wall of the north choir aisle. (Plate VII.)*

The brass, which is very large, is fixed in its original slab to the east wall of the north choir aisle to the south of a similar slab containing the busts in relief of their son and daughter-in-law, Sir John and Lady Windham, Joan, daughter of Sir Henry Portman.¹ The slab measures 100 by 57 in.

John Windham's effigy measures 48 by 14½ in.

That of Florence Windham, 47½ by 17 in.

Over the effigies is an achievement of arms on a rectangular plate, 16¼ by 13½ in.

Quarterly I and IV. (Az.) a chevron between three lions' heads erased (or) langued (gu.)—Windham.

II. Quarterly, 1 and 4 (az.) a bend (or)—Scrope. 2 and 3 (arg.) a saltire engrailed (gu.)—Tiptoft.

III. (Gules) a chevron between three roses (arg.)—Wadham.

Crest : A fetterlock (or) chained of the 1st and (arg.) within the chain a lion's head erased of the first.

At each corner of the slab is a shield of arms in a frame of strapwork ornament, 9 by 7½ in.

Top dexter, Windham ;

Top sinister, Wadham ;

The two bottom shields are alike, as on the achievement.

¹ See Mr. R. H. D'Elboux's paper following.

Below the effigies is an inscription of nine lines in black letter with a border of cable-pattern, $15\frac{1}{2}$ by $36\frac{1}{2}$ in. This is a restoration. Though the spelling and general arrangement evidently follow closely the original, the lettering is Victorian gothic. The original was gone before Haines published his *Manual of Monumental Brasses* in 1862.¹

Here lieth y^e bodies of John Windham Esq^r s^{on}e and heire of Sir John Windham of Orchard in the Countie of Somers^{set}t Knight deceased, who died (his father then living) the 25 day of august in the year of our Lorde 1572 and of his age about 56, and of Florence his wife one of y^e daughters of John Wadham of Merefeild in the Countie of Somers^{set}t Esq^r and coheire of Nicholas Wadhā of Merefeild aforesaid sonne of y^e said John & brother of her the said Florence who died the 26 day of Februarie in the year of our Lorde 1596 and of her age 58 they had issue only Sir John Windham of Orchard aforesaid who of his dutifull affection to the memorie of his dere parents hath here placed this Monument.

Three inches below another inscription of six lines in Roman capitals takes the form of a conversation between husband and wife and fate. It measures 9 by 36 in.

MARITVS : WHEN CHANGELESS FATE TO DEATH DID CHANGE MY LIFE,

I PRAY'D IT TO BEE GENTLE TO MY WIFE.

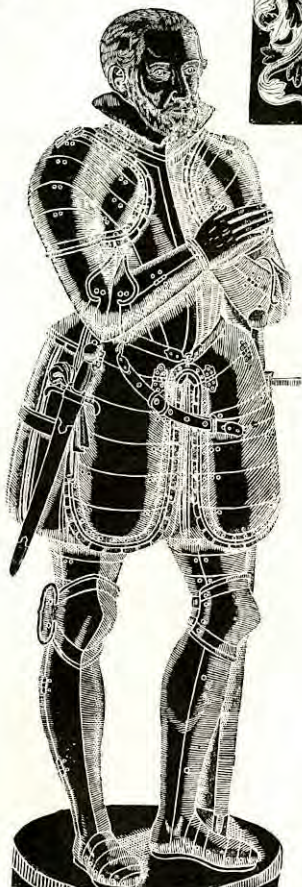
VXOR : BVT SHEE WHO HART AND HAND TO THEE DID WEDD,

DESIRED NOTHING MORE THEN THIS THIE BEDD.

FATVM : I BROUGHT Y^{RE} SOVLES THAT LINCKT WERE EACH IN EITHER,
TO REST ABOVE, Y^{RE} BODIES HERE TOGETHER.

John Windham is bare-headed with short hair, slightly longer and brushed back over the ears. He wears a deep falling collar over a steel gorget. The cuirass is pointed, and ridged down the centre. The pauldrons are large, and composed of four overlapping plates. They have no upstanding guards, as formerly. The scalloped edge of the leather lining shows beyond. The hands are bare. The laminated cuissarts protecting the thighs pass under the trunk-hose, over which the tassets, rounded towards the knees, are strapped. The tassets also show the scalloped edges of the leather lining. The dagger hangs from the right hip by a scarf. The sword with straight square-ended hilt hangs on the left from a strap

¹ It is given in full by Collinson, from whose transcript presumably the restoration was made.



ST. DECUMAN'S
John Windham, 1572, and Florence, his wife, 1596
MONUMENTAL BRASSES IN SOMERSET

hooked to the right of the skirt of the cuirass. The laminated sollerets, without spurs, fit to the form of the feet, which stand on a round platform.

Florence Windham wears the Paris Head or French Hood, with the back flaps turned back on to the forehead. She wears a large ruff. The sleeves are plain but for scalloped epaulettes on the shoulders, from which a piece of material hangs down the back the full length of the skirt. The over-gown is in one piece to the ankles, confined at the waist by a narrow sash. It is peaked in front, and expanded below by the farthingale. It is open for its full length, showing the embroidered petticoat above and below the waist. The clumsy shoes form a marked contrast to the beauty of the gown. They stand on a round platform.

Almost the same pattern, with slight variations, no two quite alike, are seen on many brasses, notably—

Joan Rysbye, 1598, Bradfield, Essex.

Wife of an unknown civilian, 1602, Helston, Cornwall.

Two wives of John Sea, 1604, Herne, Kent.

Aphra Hawkins, 1605, Fordwich, Kent.

Mary West, 1606, Marsworth, Bucks.

Bennet Finch, 1612, Preston next Faversham, Kent.

There are many other brasses, which are evidently by the same engraver. They are exceptionally well drawn. Of three at least we may be certain, the brass to the memory of Florence Windham's brother, Nicholas Wadham and his wife, 1618, Ilminster, Somerset; and two brasses laid down by her son to the memory of his cousins at Felbrigg, Norfolk, viz. Thomas, third son of Sir Edmond Windham, 1599; and Anne, daughter of Sir Edmund Windham, wife first of John Pope, secondly of Humphrey Coningsby, 1608.

John Windham was the eldest son of Sir John Windham the first of Orchard by Elizabeth Sydenham. He married Florence, youngest daughter of John Wadham of Edge and Merefield and Joan, daughter and co-heir of John Tregarthen and widow of John Kelleway of Cullompton, Devon. She was one of the three sisters of Nicholas Wadham the founder of Wadham College, Oxford.

John and Florence Windham had one child, the romantic circumstances of whose birth are related in the Hon. H. A.

Wyndham's *A Family History*, 101-2. He was the second Sir John of Orchard, subject of the bronze bust in relief dealt with in Mr. D'Elboux's paper hereafter. It was he who placed this brass to the memory of his parents, also the brasses to the memory of his cousins at Felbrigg already mentioned.

John Windham died in 1572, two years before his father. Florence died in 1596.

These exceptionally fine brasses have never before been reproduced.

In order to get the effigies and shields on the largest possible scale, the two inscriptions have been omitted from the illustration (Plate VII), and the two bottom shields brought nearer the effigies.

The description and illustration of the third brass at St. Decuman's, that to the memory of Edmund Windham, have been unavoidably postponed to a future paper.

Addenda

DUNDRY

Two inscriptions side by side on one plate. (1) William Jones of Bishport, 1753, aged 81, and Martha his wife, 1749, aged 67. (2) Elizabeth, daughter of William and Martha Jones, 1734, aged 22. Loose on the floor of the tower in July, 1946.

The plate, which measures $13\frac{3}{4}$ by $6\frac{1}{4}$ in., is rectangular with a border of leaves $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wide. On the rectangle, and overlapping the border at the sides, are two ellipses with a border top and bottom consisting of parallel lines with a scroll pattern, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. The top and bottom central spandrels between the ellipses contain patterns also. The ellipses bear the inscriptions in 19 and 9 lines respectively in Roman lettering.

IN
MEMORY OF
WM and MARTHA IONES
OF BISHPORT

SHE DIED MARCH 3RD 1749 AGED 67
HE DIED MAY 16TH 1753 AGED 81

HE was a Man of well known
integrity and whose natural
abilities was so Great that
by them only He clearly com-
prehended the Powers of the
human Mind and unaided by
academical EDVCATION was able
to refute with uncommon saga-
city the slavish systoms of
usurp'd AVTHORITY the
rights the consciences
or the REASON of
MANKIND

IN
MEMORY OF
ELIZABETH THE
DAUGHTER OF
WILLIAM & MARTHA
JONES, OF BISHPORT
WHO DIED SEP.^R
24TH 1734 AGED
22 YEARS.